

THE
FAIRIEST.

Fairy Tales.

Lane's Edition.

Price 1s.

A decorative border with a repeating floral motif surrounds the text.

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION



LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

50 04



J. Perry

FAIRY TALES



Fortunio's Combat with the Dragon.

THE
FAIRIEST;

OR

SURPRISING AND ENTERTAINING

ADVENTURES

OF THE

AERIAL BEINGS;

IN WHICH ARE RELATED SEVERAL

UNCOMMON TALES
WONDERFUL STORIES
CURIOUS ACCIDENTS

STRANGE METAMORPHOSES
DANGEROUS ESCAPES
AND HAPPY CONCLUSIONS;

THE WHOLE SELECTED TO

AMUSE AND IMPROVE JUVENILE MINDS.

Here Vice and Virtue you may see,
Painted in their just Degree.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
AT THE
Minerva-Press,
LEADENHALL-STREET.

M DCC XCV.

For the Description of the elegant Frontispiece,
see Page 20.



THE
F A R I E S T.

THE
S T O R Y
O F
F O R T U N I O,
THE
F O R T U N A T E K N I G H T.

THERE once reigned a powerful king, who was a prince of great clemency, and very well beloved by his subjects; but being engaged in a war with an emperor, whose name was Matapa, a neighbouring and potent prince, after several battles, the emperor at last gained an entire and signal victory. The king had most of his officers and soldiers killed, or taken prisoners, and the emperor soon after besieged his capital town, and took it; by which means he became master of all the treasures. The king had much ado to escape himself, with the queen dowager, his sister, who was young, beautiful, and witty, but withal proud, hasty, and difficult of access. The emperor transported all his jewels and rich furniture to his own palace, and took a great number of young damsels, horses, and whatever might be useful and agreeable to him; and when he had de-

populated the greatest part of the kingdoms, returned in triumph home, where he was received by the empress and the princess his daughter, with all the joy imaginable; while the dethroned king endured, with the utmost impatience, his misfortunes. He assembled what troops he had left, formed a small party, and to augment it as soon as possible, published an ordinance, requiring all gentlemen, who were his subjects, either to come and serve him in their own proper persons, or to send one of their sons well mounted and armed.

There lived on the frontiers an old lord, who had seen full fourscore years, and was a man of extraordinary parts, but had partaken so much of the frowns of fortune; that he was very much reduced, and had bore all his ill fortune with more patience, had not three beautiful daughters shared it with him. But as they were women of good sense, they never murmured at their misfortunes, but rather, when they spoke, comforted their father, than added to his afflictions. In this manner they lived with him in an old country-house, free from ambition, when this ordinance reached the old gentleman's ear; who called his daughters, and, with a countenance that discovered the grief of his mind, said to them, 'What shall we do? The king has ordered all persons of distinction in his dominions to serve him against the emperor, or pay such a fine, which I am not able to do; and these extremities will either cost me my life, or be our ruin.' His three daughters were as much concerned as himself at this news, but yet desired him not to be disheartened, since they were persuaded some remedy might be found out. The next day, the eldest went to her father, as he was walking melancholy in his little orchard, and said to him, 'I come my lord, to entreat you to let me go to the army; I am of an advantageous height enough, and robust: I will dress myself in men's cloaths, and pass for your son: If I do no heroic actions, I shall however save you a journey or the tax, which is a great deal in our circumstances.' The count embraced her tenderly, and at first opposed so extraordinary a design; but

but she represented to him, with great firmness of mind, that there was no other expedient, and thereby got his consent. Her father provided cloaths and arms for her, and gave her the best of four horses, which he kept to go to plow and cart, and after the most tender farewell on both sides, she set out on her journey. After some days travel, as she passed by a large meadow, beset with a quickset hedge, she saw a shepherdes very much grieved, who was endeavouring to pull a sheep out of a ditch: 'What are you doing there shepherdes?' (said she) 'Alas! (replied the shepherdes) I am striving to save a sheep that is almost drowned, and am so weak, that I cannot draw him out.' 'I pity you.' (said she,) and, without offering her assistance, rid away. Whereupon the shepherdes cried out, 'Good-bye, disguised fair.' Which put our heroine into an inexpressible surprize. 'How is it possible, (said she to herself) that I should be known? This old shepherdes has but just set eyes on me, and has discovered what I am; what shall I do? I shall be known to all the world, and how ashamed and vexed shall I be, if the king should find me out! He will think my father a coward, that durst not expose himself to danger.' At last she concluded to go home again.

The count and his daughters were talking of her, and reckoning how long she had been gone, when they saw her come in, who told them her adventure. The good old count said it was nothing but what he foresaw; that if she would have taken his advice, she had not gone, because he thought it impossible but she must be discovered. This little family was embarrassed again, when the second daughter said to her father, 'I am not surprized that my sister should be discovered, since she never was on horseback before; but for my part, if you will let me go in her stead, I dare promise, you shall not need to repent it.' It was in vain for the old count to refuse her; he was forced to consent, and she took other cloaths and arms, and another horse; and when she was thus equipped, embraced her father and sisters, and resolved to serve the king; but as she

passed by the same meadow, she saw the same shepherds drawing a sheep out of a deep ditch, who cried out, ' Unfortunate wretch that I am, to lose half my flock in this manner; if any body would help me, I might save this poor creature.' ' What! shepherds (cried out this second daughter) do you take no better care of your sheep, than to let them fall into the water?' Then spur'd on her horse, and rid away. ' Farewell, disguised fair,' (cried the old woman to her.) Which words were no small affliction to our Amazon. ' How unfortunate (said she) is it to be thus known: I have no better luck than my sister: It will be ridiculous for me to go to the army with such an effeminate air.' Thereupon she returned home very much vexed at her bad success.

The old count received her with a great deal of tenderness, and commended her prudence, but could not help being chagrined at the expence he had been at, of two suits of cloaths and other things, though he concealed it as much as possible from his daughters. At last the youngest daughter desired him, with the most pressing instances to give her leave, as he had done both her sisters. ' Perhaps (said she) you may think it presumption in me to think to succeed better than they, yet I desire I may try; I am somewhat taller than they; you know I have been used to hunting, which exercise bears parrallel with war; and my great desire to comfort you in your misfortunes, will inspire me with extraordinary courage.' As the count loved this daughter better than the other two, because she always took most care of him, and read to divert him, and killed game for him; he used all the arguments he was master of, to dissuade her from her design. ' If you leave me, my dear child (said he) your absence will be my death; for should fortune favour you in your undertaking, and you should return crowned with laurels, I shall not have the pleasure of seeing it, since I am in so advanced an age.' ' No father (said she) do not think the time long, the war must soon be at an end; and if I find out any other way to fulfil the king's orders,

orders, I will not neglect it: for I can assure you, if my absence is a trouble to you, it is no less to me.' By these words she at last persuaded him into a consent; and after that made up a plain suit of cloaths, for her sisters had exhausted the old count's treasures too much for her to have any better; and was forced to take up with one of the worst horses, because the others were lamed: but all this could not discourage her: She embraced her father, asked his blessing, and after shedding some tears with him and her sisters, set forwards on her journey.

As she went by the same meadow, she saw the old shepherdes endeavouring to pull the sheep out of a ditch. 'What are you doing there, shepherdes?' (said she.) 'I have been doing, Sir, (replied the old woman) till I can do no longer: I have been ever since the break of day striving to get this sheep out, and all to no purpose; and I am so weary I can scarce stand: there is never a day passes over my head but some misfortune attends me, and nobody will help me.' 'Indeed I pity you (said our young warrior) and to shew it the more, will assist you.' Thereupon alighted from her horse, and jumping over the hedge, she went into the ditch, where she worked till she got this favourite sheep out. 'Do not cry, shepherdes (said she) here is your sheep; and considering the time he has lain in the water, he is very brisk.' 'You shall not find me ungrateful, charming maid, (said the shepherdes) I know where you are going and all your designs; your sister passed by this meadow, I knew them and their thoughts; but they were so hard-hearted and unkind, that I found the means to prevent their journey; but for your part, you shall find it otherwise. I am a fairy, and have a great inclination to reward those that are deserving. That horse you ride is but a poor sorry one, I will give you a better.' Thereupon striking the ground with her crook, our warrior heard a whinnying behind a holt of trees, and presently saw a beautiful horse galloping about the meadow. The fairy called this courser to her, and touching him with

her crook, said, faithful Comrade, be accoutered finer than the best horse of the Emperor Metapa; and immediately Comrade had on a saddle and housings of green velvet embroidered with diamonds, a bridle strung with pearls, with bosses and bit of gold.

‘What you see (said the fairy) is the least thing you ought to admire this horse for; he has a great many rare qualities which I will inform you of. First, he eats but once in eight days: and then he knows what is past, present, and to come: for I have had him a long time, and brought him up to my hand. When you want to be informed of any thing, or are at a loss for advice, you must address yourself to him, and must look on him more like your friend than a horse. Besides, I do not like your habit, I will give you one shall please you better.’ Then striking on the ground with her crook, there arose up a turkey leather trunk, adorned with nails of gold; the fairy looked on the grass for the key which opened it: It was lined with spanish leather embroidered, and contained a dozen complete suits of clothes, with dozens of all appurtenances, as swords, linen, &c. The cloaths were so rich with embroidery and diamonds that our Amazon could hardly lift them. The fairy bid her chuse which she liked best, and told her the rest should follow her wherever she went; and that she needed but to stamp with her foot, and call for her turkey-leather trunk, and it should come to her full of money and jewels, or full of fine linen and laces, which she called for, either into her chamber or in the field. ‘But, (said the Fairy) you must make choice of some name agreeable to your profession; and I think you may call yourself Fortunio: Besides, I think it not improper you should know me in my own person.’ At that very moment she cast off her old skin, and appeared so beautiful that she dazzled the eyes of our young heroine. Her habit was blue velvet lined with ermine, her hair was platted with pearls, and on her head stood a stately crown. Our young warrior was so transported with admiration, she cast herself at her feet, so great was her acknowledgment. The fairy raised

raised her up, and embraced her tenderly, and bid her take a habit of gold and green brocade, which she accordingly obeyed, and mounted her horse, continued on her journey, so penetrated with the extraordinary fortune she had met with, that she could think of nothing else. She examined with herself by what good fortune she had gained the good will of so powerful a fairy; for she said to herself, 'She could with one stroke of her wand have drawn out, without my assistance, a whole flock from the center of the earth. It was fortunate for me I was so ready to oblige her; she knew the sentiments of my heart, and approved of them. If my father saw me now so rich, and in all this magnificence, how overjoyed would he be, and how well pleased should I be to have my family partakers with me!'

As she made an end of these reflections, she arrived at a great city, and drew on her the eyes of all the people, who followed and crowded about her, saying, they never saw so fine and handsome a knight, and so graceful a horse before. She had all manner of respects paid to her, which she returned with all imaginable civility. As soon as she came to an inn, the governors, who had seen her as he was walking out, and admired her, and sent a gentleman to desire her to accept of an apartment in his castle. Fortunio, for so we must call her, answered, that as he had not the honour to be known to him, he would not take that freedom, but would come and pay his respects to him; but withal desired he would let him have a trusty servant to send to his father; which the Governor did instantly, and our knight desired him to come again that night, because his dispatches were not ready. He shut himself up fast in his chamber, then stamping with his foot, and calling for the Turkey leather trunk full of diamonds and pistoles, it appeared that moment; but then he was at a loss for the key, and knew not where to find it, and thought with himself it would be a thousand pities to break open a trunk so curiously wrought and to have so much riches exposed to the indiscretion or knavery of a locksmith, that

that might talk publicly of them, and by that means inform all robbers of it. 'What use are these favours of, (Fortunio cried) since I can neither enjoy them myself nor let my father receive any benefit from them? Then musing and walking about, he remembered he should consult his horse: away he goes to the stable, and whispered softly to him, 'Pray, Comrade, tell me where I shall find the key of the Turkey-leather trunk.' 'In my ear,' (answered he.) The knight looked in his ear and saw a green ribbon, by which he pulled out the key. He opened the trunk, and filled three little chests full of diamonds and pistoles, one for his father, and two for his sisters, and sent the governor's man with them, desiring him not to stop night nor day, till he arrived at the old count's. When the messenger told him he came from his son the knight, and brought him a very heavy chest; he was very much surpris'd at what it could contain, for he knew he had so little money when he set out, that he could not buy any thing, nor pay the person for bringing his present. First he opened his letter, and when he saw what his dear daughter had sent him, he was ready to die with joy: the sight of the jewels and gold, made good her words: but what was most extraordinary, when the two sisters opened their chests, there were nought but cut glass and false pistoles; so unwilling was the fairy that they should receive any favours from her: insomuch that they thought their sister mocked them, and thereupon conceived an inexpressible hatred against her. The count seeing them so angry, gave them a great many of the jewels; but as soon as ever they touched them, they changed like the rest, by which they knew some unknown power acted against them, and begged of their father to keep them to himself.

Fortunio never staid for the return of the messenger, so short was the time limited to obey the king's edict in, but went and took his leave of the governor. The whole city was assembling together to see him: his person and all his actions had somewhat so engaging in them, that they could not but love and admire him.

He

He never spoke, but they expressed a pleasure at every word; and the crowd was so great, that he who had been used all his life-time to the country, knew not what it was owing to. After all civilities paid and received, he set forward on his journey, and was entertained most agreeably by his horse, who told him of a great many remarkable things both in old and modern histories, until they arrived at a vast forest; when Comrade said to the knight, 'Master, there lives her a man who may be of great use to us: he is a wood-man, and one who is gifted.' 'What do you mean by that?' (interrupted the knight.) 'One (said the horse) who is endowed by fairies with some rare qualities; therefore we must engage him to go along with us.' At that instant they came to the place where the wood-man was at work. The young knight approached him with a sweet and pleasant air, and asked him several questions about the place where they were: whether there were any wild beasts in the forest, and if people were allowed to hunt them; to which the woodman returned him very suitable answers. Then he asked him who helped him to fell so many trees; he answered, he had felled them all himself; and that it was the work only of some few hours; and that he must fell a few more to make a little burden. 'What (said the knight) do you pretend to carry all this wood to day.' 'O Sir, (said strong-back, which was his name) I am extraordinary strong.' 'Then (said fortunio) your gain must be great.' 'Very little, (replied the woodman) we are very poor in this place; and every one does his own work.' 'Since it is so (added the knight) come along with me, and you shall want nothing; and when you have a mind to go home again, I will give you money to defray your expences.' Which proposal he approved of, and left his wedges and other tools, and followed his new master.

When he had crossed the forest, he saw a man in the plain, holding in his hands ribbons, with which he tied his legs, leaving one would think or imagine, scarce liberty enough to walk. Comrade stopped, and said to his

his master, ' This is another gifted man; you will have occasion for him, therefore take him along with you.' At that the fortunate knight advanced towards him with his natural gracefulness, and asked him why he tied his legs so? ' O, (answered he) I am preparing for a hunt.' ' How (said the knight, smiling) do you pretend to run best when you are fettered?' ' No, Sir, (replied he) I do not pretend to run so fast, but that is not my intention; there are neither stags nor hares, but what I out-run when my legs are at liberty; so that by always out-going them they escape, and I seldom catch them.' ' You seem to me a very extraordinary man, (said the knight) what is your name?' ' Lightfoot (replied he) and I am very well known in this country.' ' If you would see another, (added cur hero) I should be glad you would go with me: I will use you very kindly.' Which offer, Lightfoot, as he lived but indifferently, accepted of with thanks, and followed the fortunate knight.

The next day he met with a man by a marsh side, binding his eyes. The horse said to his master, ' I would advise you, Sir, to take this man into your service.' Fortunio asked him what made him bind his eyes; to which he answered, that he saw too clearly; that he could see game above four leagues; and that he never shot but he killed always more than he desired; that he was forced to bind his eyes, lest he should destroy all the partridges, pheasants, &c. in the country. ' You are a notable man, (replied Fortunio) what is your name?' ' They call me Marksman, (answered he) and I would not leave off that employ for any thing in the world.' ' However, (said the knight) I have a great desire to propose to you to travel along with me; it shall not hinder you from exercising your talent.' The Marksman raised some objections, and the knight found it harder to get his consent than any of the rest; for these sort of people are generally great lovers of liberty: however he brought it about, and they all left the marsh together.

After

After some days journey they came by a long meadow, where they saw a man laid all on one side upon the ground. ‘ Master (said Comrade) this is a gifted man, who will, I foresee, be very necessary to you.’ Fortunio went into the meadow, and desired to know what he was doing. ‘ I want some simples (answered he) and I am listening to the grass that is growing, to know if there are any such as I want coming up.’ ‘ What (said the knight) is your ear so quick as to hear the grass grow, and know what will come up?’ ‘ Yes, (replied he) and for that reason I am called Fine-Ear.’ ‘ Well, Fine-Ear, (said Fortunio) have you an inclination to follow me? I will give you good wages; you shall have no reason to complain.’ This proposal was so agreeable to him, he, without any manner of hesitation, added himself to increase their number.

The knight pursuing his travels, saw by a great road side a man whose cheeks were so blown up, that he represented the picture of Eolus; he was standing with his face towards a high hill, about two leagues off, on which there stood fifty or sixty windmills. The horse said to his master, ‘ There is another of our gifted men; do what you can to take him along with you.’ Fortunio, who was as engaging in his person as speech, accosted him, asked him, what he was doing there. ‘ I am blowing a little, Sir, (answered he) to set those mills at work.’ ‘ You seem too far off,’ (said the knight.) ‘ On the contrary (replied the blower) I am too nigh; if I did not hold in my breath, I should overturn the mills, and perhaps the hill itself; so that by this means I often do a great deal of mischief against my will. I will tell you, Sir, I once was in love, and very ill used by my mistress, and as I sighed in the woods, my sighs tore up trees by their roots, and made such a havock, that in this country they called me the Boisterer.’ ‘ If you are troublesome to them (said Fortunio) go along with me; here are those that will bear you company, who have each of them extraordinary talents.’ ‘ I have a natural curiosity (replied the Boisterer) and on that condition accept of your offer.’

Every thing succeeding thus to Fortunio's desire, he left this place, and after crossing a thick inclosed country, saw a large lake into which several springs discharged their waters; and by its side a man who looked very earnestly at him. 'Sir (said Comrade to his master) 'this man is wanting to compleat your equipage; it 'would be well if you could engage him to follow you.' The knight went to him and said, 'Pray, friend, what 'are you doing there?' 'You shall see, Sir, (answered 'the man) as soon as the lake is full, I will drink it up at one draught; for I am very dry, though I have 'emptied it twice already.' Accordingly he stooped down, and left scarce enough for the least fish to swim in. Fortunio and his troop were all very much surprised. 'What, (said he) are you always thus thirsty?' 'No, (said the water-drinker) only after eating salt 'meat, or upon a wager. I am known by the name of 'Tippler.' 'Come along with me, Tippler, (said the 'knight) and you shall tipple wine, you will like better 'than this water.' This promise carried too great a temptation with it for Tippler to withstand, who immediately got up, and followed them.

The knight had got within sight of the place of rendezvous, where they were all to assemble, when he perceived a man who eat so greedily, that though he had sixty thousand loaves of bread before him, he seemed resolved not to leave one bit. Comrade said to his master, 'Sir, you only want this man; pray engage him to go 'with you.' Upon which the knight made up to him, and smiling said, 'Are you resolved to eat up all this 'bread at your breakfast?' 'Yes (replied he) and am 'vexed to see so little: these bakers are a lazy sort of 'people, who care not if one was starved.' 'If you 'eat as much every day (added Fortunio) you are 'able to cause a famine in the country of the world.' 'O! Sir, (repled Grugeon, which was his name, and 'which signifies a great eater) I should be sorry to have 'so great a stomach, since neither what I could get myself, nor what my neighbours had, would satisfy me: 'indeed, sometimes I am glad to regale myself after
' this

‘ this manner.’ ‘ Well, Grugeon (said the knight) if you will follow me, you shall not want for good cheer, nor repent your chusing me for your master.’ Comrade, whose sense and foresight were of great service to our knight, told him, it would be proper that he forbid his attendants from boasting of their extraordinary gifts; which he failed not to do and each of them swore they would punctually obey his commands. Soon after the knight, whose beauty and good mien far exceeded the richness of his habit, entered the capital city, mounted on his excellent horse, and followed by his seven attendants, for whom he provided rich liveries, laced with gold, and good horses; and going to the best inn, stayed there till the day appointed for the review; all which time he was the subject of discourse of the whole city, insomuch that the king hearing of him, had a great desire to see him.

The troop assembled on a large plain, the king and his sister, the queen dowager, came to review them. She abated in no wise her pomp and state, notwithstanding the troubles of the kingdom; but dazzled Fortunio’s eyes with the riches with which she was adorned; whose beauty had the same effect upon that noble train, as her magnificence had on him. Every body inquired who that handsome young knight was; and the king himself, as he passed by, made a sign for him to come to him. Fortunio alighted from off his horse, to make the king a low bow, but at the same time could not forbear blushing, seeing him look so earnestly at him, which gave a great lustre to his complexion. ‘ I should be glad (said the king) to know who you are, and your name;’ ‘ Sir, (answered he) I am called Fortunio, though I have no reason to bear that name, since my father is an old count who lives on the frontiers; who, though he is a man of birth, has no estate.’ ‘ Though fortune may have proved unkind hitherto, (answered the king) she has made amends, by bringing you hither. I have a particular affection for you, and remember that your father did mine some signal services, which I will recompense in you.’ ‘ It is just you should, (said the

‘ the

‘ the queen dowager, who had not yet opened her lips)
 ‘ And as I am older than you, brother, I remember
 ‘ more particularly than you do, what great things the
 ‘ old count performed in the service of his country;
 ‘ therefore I desire I may have the care of the preferment
 ‘ of this young knight.’

Fortunio, overjoyed at this reception, could not thank the king and queen enough, and durst not enlarge too much on the sentiments of his acknowledgment, thinking it more respectful to hold his tongue, than to speak too much, though what he did say was so proper and well adapted, that every one commended him. Afterwards he mounted his horse again, and mixed among the lords and gentlemen who attended on the king; when the queen calling him, often asked him questions, and turning herself towards Florida, who was her confident, said to her softly, ‘ What do you think of this young spark? can there be a more noble air, and more regular features? I must confess, I never in my life saw any thing more lovely.’ Florida’s sentiments differed not from her mistress’s; she praised him even to exaggeration. Our knight could not forbear casting his eyes often on the king, who was not only a handsome prince, but in all his ways was engaging; and our female warrior, though she had changed her habit, had not renounced her sex, but was sensible of his merit. The king told Fortunio after the review, that he was afraid the war would be very bloody, therefore he was resolved always to keep him nigh his own person. The queen dowager, who was then by, said, she was just thinking that he ought not to be exposed to the dangers of a long campaign, and that as the place of the steward of her household was vacant, she would give it to him. ‘ No, (said the king) I will make him master of the horse to myself.’ Thus they disputed who should prefer Fortunio; when the queen, fearing lest she should too much betray the secret emotions of her heart, yielded to the king.

There was never a day passed but Fortunio called for his turkey-leather trunk, and took a new dress; by which means he appeared more magnificent than all the prin-

ces of the court : infomuch that the queen asked him often how his father could afford to be at fo vast an expence ? Sometimes ſhe bantered him, and ſaid, ‘ Come, confeſs truly, you have a miſtreſs, who ſupports you in all this finery.’ Upon which Fortunio would bluſh, and excuſe himſelf the beſt he could. He acquitted himſelf admirably well in his poſt, and his heart, which was ſenſible of a tendernels for the king, attached him more to his perſon than he wiſhed to be. ‘ What is my fate, (ſaid our knight) I love a great and powerful king, without any hopes of the like return, or that he ſhould have any regard for the pains I endure?’ The king loaded him with his favours ; he thought nothing well done, but what was done by the handſome knight, and the queen, deceived by his habit, thought ſeriously of marrying him ; but the inequality of their birth was the only obſtacle that ſtood in her way. Neither was ſhe the only perſon that was taken with the beautiful Fortunio, all the fine ladies of the court ſighed for him. He was continually peſtered with tender letters, appointments for rendezvous, preſents, and a thouſand other gallantries ; which he answered with all imaginable indifference, which made them ſuſpect he had left a miſtreſs behind him in his own country. At all tournaments he won the prize, and in hunting, or any other ſport, killed more game than all the company beſides, and danced at all balls more gracefully than all the courtiers ; in ſhort, he charmed all who ſaw or heard him.

The queen, that ſhe might not be obliged to declare her ſentiments to him herſelf, charged Florida, to let him underſtand, that ſuch marks of bounty from a young queen ought not to be ſo careleſly received. Florida, who had not been able to avoid the fate of moſt that had ſeen this knight, was very much embarrassed with this commiſſion ; he appeared too lovely in her eyes, for her to think of preferring her miſtreſs’s intereſt before her own ; infomuch that whenever the queen gave her an opportunity of diſcourſing with him, inſtead of ſpeaking of the beauty and great qualifications of that

princess, she told him how ill-humoured she was, how much her woman endured with her; how unjust she was, and the ill use she made of the great power she had usurped; and at last, comparing sentiments, said, 'Though I was not born to be a queen, I ought to have been one, since I have a great and generous soul, that induces me to do good to every body. O! (continued she) was I in that high station, how happy would I make the charming Fortunio! he should love me out of gratitude, if he could not love me through inclination.'

The young knight was entirely at a loss, and knew not what answer to make, but ever after carefully avoided having any private discourse with her; while the impatient queen never failed to ask Florida how far she had wrought on Fortunio, who said to her, 'He is, Madam, so timorous, that he will not believe any thing that I tell him favourably from you, or pretends not to believe it, because he is engaged in some other passion.' 'I believe so too, (said the alarmed queen) but is it possible his love should hold out against his ambition?' 'And can you, Madam (replied Florida) bear the thoughts of owing his heart to your crown? ought a princess so young and beautiful as you are, to have recourse to a diadem?' 'Yes, to every thing, (cried the queen) when it is to subdue a rebellious heart.' By this Florida knew very well that it was impossible to cure her mistress of her passion. The queen waited every day for some happy effect from the cares of her confidant; but the small progress she made on Fortunio, obliged her to find out other ways to discourse with him. As she knew that he went early every morning into a little wood, into which the windows of her apartment looked; she arose with the morning, and looking out she perceived him walking in a careless melancholy air, and calling Florida, said to her, 'What you told me appears but too true; Fortunio, without dispute, is in love with some lady, either in this court, or in his own country: observe but the sadness which hangs on his face.' 'I have taken notice of it in
all

‘ all the conversation I had with him (replied Florida)
 ‘ therefore, Madam, it would be well if you could for-
 ‘ get him.’ ‘ It is now too late, (cried the queen,
 ‘ fetching a deep sigh) but if he goes into that green
 ‘ harbour, we will go to him.’ Florida durst in no wise
 offer to oppose the queen, though she had a great desire
 to it; for she was cruelly afraid she should be loved by
 Fortunio, knowing a rival of her rank to be always dan-
 gerous. When the queen came within some small dis-
 tance of the harbour, she heard the knight, whose voice
 was very agreeable, sing these words:

*In vain soft ease, the love tofs'd heart pursues:
 Ev'n in possession of the long sought joy,
 We rob the bounteous God of half his dues,
 And future fears the present bliss destroy.*

Fortunio made these lines, with relation to the sen-
 timent wherewith the young king had inspired her, the
 favours she had received from that prince, and the ap-
 prehensions she was under, lest she should be known,
 and be forced to leave a court, which she chose to live in
 sooner than any other place in the world. The queen
 who stopped to hear her, was in cruel uneasiness: ‘ What
 ‘ am I going to attempt? (said she softly to Florida)
 ‘ this young ingrate despises the honour of pleasing me,
 ‘ thinks himself happy, seems content with his conquest,
 ‘ and sacrifices me to another.’ ‘ He is now at that age
 ‘ (answered Florida) when reason has not fully establish-
 ‘ ed itself. If I durst give your majesty advice, it
 ‘ should be to forget him, since he knows not how to va-
 ‘ lue his good fortune.’ The queen, who would have
 been better pleased that her confident had spoke after
 another manner, cast an angry eye upon her, and ad-
 vancing forwards, went directly into the harbour where
 the knight was and pretended to be surpris'd to find
 him there, and to be vexed he should see her in a dis-
 habille, though at the same time she had neglected nothing
 that was rich and gallant. As soon as he saw her, he
 was for retiring, out of respect; but she bid him stay,

that she might lean on him back again, ‘ I was this morning (said she) agreeably awakened by the warbling of the birds, and the freshness of the air invited me to come nigher to them. Alas! how happy are they! they know nought but pleasures, they know no troubles.’ I am of opinion, madam (replied Fortunio) that they are not absolutely exempt from troubles and disquiets! they are always in danger of the murdering shot and snares of sportsmen, besides that of the birds of prey, which make a cruel war upon them; and then again, when a hard and severe winter congeals the earth, and covers it with snow, they die for want of food, and are every year put to the trouble of seeking out a new mistress.’ ‘ Do you think it then a trouble? (said the queen smiling) there are men who do it every month. What (continued she) you seem surpris’d, as if your heart was not of this stamp, and that you have not hitherto been given to change.’ ‘ I cannot yet tell Madam, (said he) what I may be capable of, since I was never sensible of love; but I dare believe, if I should be, my passion would be lasting.’ ‘ You have never been in love! (cried the queen, looking so earnest at him, that the poor knight blush’d) you have not been in love? O Fortunio! how can you tell a queen so? who reads, in your face and eyes, the passion that possesses your heart, and which your own words, which you sung to a new fashioned tune, have informed me of.’ ‘ Indeed, Madam (answered the knight) the lines were made, but I made them without any particular design; for my companions and acquaintances engage me to make drinking catches, (though I drink naught but water) and tender passionate songs; so that I sing both love and bacchus, though I am neither a lover nor a drinker.’

The queen listened to him with that concern, that she could hardly contain herself. What he said, re-kindled in her heart the hope Florida would have banished: ‘ If I could think you sincere, (said she) I should have reason to be surpris’d, that you have not found

‘ in

‘ in this court a lady amiable enough to fix your choice.’
 ‘ Madam (replied Fortunio) I have so much to do in
 ‘ the office I am in, I have no time to throw away in
 ‘ fighting.’ ‘ Then you love nothing?’ (added she with
 ‘ eagerness.) ‘ No, Madam (said he) I have not a
 ‘ heart of so gallant a character; I am a kind of misan-
 ‘ thropist, that loves my liberty, and would not lose it
 ‘ for all the world.’ The queen sat herself down, and
 fixing her eyes most obligingly on him, replied, ‘ There
 ‘ are some chains so easy and glorious to bear, that if
 ‘ fortune has destined any such for you, I would ad-
 ‘ vise you to renounce your liberty.’ In this discourse
 her eyes explained her thoughts but too intelligibly for
 our knight, whose suspicions were too great before not
 to be confirmed in them; and fearing lest the conver-
 sation should go too far, he pulled out a watch, and set-
 ting the hand forward, said, ‘ I beg of your majesty
 ‘ to give me leave to go to the palace, it is the king’s
 ‘ time of rising, and he ordered me to be at his levee.’
 ‘ Go, indifferent youth, (said she, fetching a deep sigh)
 ‘ you are in the right to pay court to my brother; but
 ‘ remember it would not be amiss to let me have some
 ‘ share of your devoirs.’ The queen followed him with
 her eyes; then lowering them, and reflecting on what
 had passed, blushed with shame and rage; and what
 troubled her most, was, Florida’s being a witness, and
 the joyful air that appeared all over her countenance,
 which was as much as to say, she had better have taken
 her advice, than spoke to Fortunio.

Florida acted her part very well with the queen, and
 comforted her the best she could, giving her some flatter-
 ing hopes, of which at that time she stood in great need.
 ‘ Fortunio, Madam, (said she) thinks himself so much
 ‘ beneath you, that perhaps he did not understand what
 ‘ you meant, and I think he has assured you he loves
 ‘ no person.’ As it is natural for us to flatter ourselves,
 the queen recovered somewhat out of her fears, not dream-
 ing in the least that the malicious Florida was engaging
 her to declare herself more plainly, that he might offend
 her the more by the indifference of his answers. The

knight, for his part, was in the utmost confusion, the situation he was in seemed cruel, and he would have made no difficulty to have left the court, had not the fatal stroke, wherewith the little god had wounded his heart, detained him in spite of himself. He never came near the queen but on drawing-room nights, and then with the king; and as soon as she perceived this new change in his behaviour, she gave him often the most favourable opportunities to make his court to her, which he as often neglected; when one day, as she was going down some steps into the gardens, she saw him crossing a large alley, and making towards the woods. Upon which, calling to him, he, lest she should be displeas'd, came to her and pretended that he did not see her. ' You remember knight (said she) the conversation we had some time since in the green arbour.' ' I am not, Madam, (answered he) capable of forgetting that honour.' ' Then, without doubt, (said she) the questions I put to you were not very pleasing; for since that day, you would not let it be in my power to ask you any more.' ' As chance alone, (answered he) procured me that favour, I thought it would be too great boldness to pretend to any other.' ' Say rather ungrateful man, (continued she blushing) you have avoided my presence: you know my sentiments but too well.' Fortunio, through modesty and confusion, lowered his eyes, and as he did not make a quick reply, ' You are very much confounded, (said she) go, seek not for an answer, I understand you better than I would.' She had, perhaps, said a great deal more, but that she perceived the king coming that way; whereupon she made towards him, seeing him pensive and melancholy, conjured him to tell her the reason, ' You know, (said the king) that I have received advice this month of a dragon of a prodigious size, that ravages the whole country. I thought he might be killed, and to that end gave necessary orders; but all that has been tried has proved in vain. He devours my subjects and their flocks, and all that comes nigh him; he poisons all the rivers and lakes he drinks at, and
wherever

‘ wherever he lies, withers all the grafs and herbs about him.’

While the king was making this complaint, the enraged queen was thinking how ſhe might ſacrifice the knight to her reſentment. ‘ I am not unacquainted with the ill news you have received; Fortunio, whom you ſaw with me, informed me thereof; but, brother, you will be ſurpriſed at what I have to tell you; he has begged of me with the greateſt importunity, to aſk your leave to let him go to fight this terrible dragon; indeed he has a wonderful addreſs and handles his arms ſo well, that I am not ſo much amazed at his preſuming ſo much of himſelf; beſides, he has told me he has a ſecret, by which he can lay the moſt wakeful dragon aſleep: but that muſt not be mentioned, becauſe it ſhews not ſo much courage in the action.’ Be it how it will, (replied the king) it will be glorious for him, and of great ſervice to us, if he ſhould ſucceed; but I am afraid this proceeds from an indiſcreet zeal, and that it ſhould coſt him his life.’ No, brother (added the queen) fear not, he has told me very ſurpriſing things on this ſubject. You know he is naturally very ſevere; and beſides, what honour can he hope to gain by throwing away his life raſhly? In ſhort, (continued ſhe) I have promiſed to obtain for him what he ſo earneſtly deſires, and if you reſuſe him, you will break his heart.’ ‘ I conſent (ſaid the king) yet I muſt own, not very freely: however, let us call him.’ And thereupon making a ſign for him to come to him, ſaid to him in an obliging manner, ‘ I underſtand by the queen, you have a great deſire to fight the dragon, that preys ſo much on our country; which is ſo bold a reſolution, that I can ſcarcely believe you know the danger you run.’ ‘ I have repreſented that already to him, (answered the queen) but his zeal for your ſervice, and his deſire to ſignalize himſelf, are ſo great, that nothing can diſſuade him from it; and therefore I foreſee ſome happy ſucceſs will attend him.’

Fortunio was very much ſurpriſed to hear the king and queen talk after this manner, and had too much

fense not to penetrate into the ill designs of that prince; but his sweetness of temper would not suffer him to explain himself. So, without returning any answer, he let her talk on, while he made low bows; which the king took for so many new entreaties to grant what he so much desired. 'Go, (said the king, sighing) go where honour calls; I know you do every thing so well, and in particular have so much courage and conduct, that this monster will not be able to escape your arms.' Sir, (answered the knight) however fortune decides the fight, I shall be satisfied: since I shall either deliver you from a terrible scourge, or die in your service: But honour me with one favour, which will be infinitely dear to me.' 'Ask what you will have,' (said the king.) 'Then let me be so bold (continued he) as to beg your picture.' The king was mightily pleased, that he should think of his picture at a time when his thoughts might have been employed on so many other important things, and the queen was chagrined anew, that he had not made the same request to her. The king returned to his palace, and the queen to hers, and Fortunio, who was not a little embarrassed on his word which he had given, went to his horse: 'Comrade (said he) I have strange news to tell your.' 'I know it, Sir, already,' (replied the horse) 'What shall we then do?' (asked Fortunio) 'We must go as soon as possible; (answered the horse) get the king's commission, whereby he orders you to fight the dragon, and afterwards we will do our duty.' These words were very comfortable to our young knight, who failed not to wait on the king early the next morning in a campaigning habit, as handsome and gallant as any of his other.

As soon as the king saw him, he cried out, 'What, are you ready to go?' 'Yes, Sir, (replied he) one cannot make too much haste to execute your commands; therefore I am come to take my leave of you.' The king could not but relent, seeing so young, so beautiful, and so accomplished a knight, then going to expose himself to the greatest danger, man could ever encounter; he embraced him, and gave him his picture set in diamonds,

diamonds, which Fortunio received with extraordinary joy; for the king's great qualities had such an effect upon him, that he could not think any so lovely as him; and if he had any reluctancy to go, it proceeded more from being deprived of his presence, than his fear of being devoured by the dragon. The king would have a general order included in Fortunio's commission, for all his subjects to aid and assist him, whenever he should stand in need. Afterwards he took his leave of the king, and that nothing might be remarked in his behaviour, went also to the queen, who was set at her toilet, surrounded by a great number of ladies. She changed colour, as soon as ever she saw him, so much had she to reproach herself withal; he saluted her respectfully, and asked her if she would honour him with her commands, since he was just then going. These last words put her into the utmost consternation, while Florida, who knew not what the queen had plotted against the knight, remained like one thunder-struck, and would willingly have had some private discourse with him, but that he avoided it as much as possible: 'I beseech Heaven (said the queen) that you may conquer, and return in triumph.' 'Madam, (replied the knight) your majesty honours me too much, and I am sensible, knows very well the danger to which I shall be exposed; yet I have a great deal of confidence, and perhaps am the only person that entertains any hopes on this occasion.' The queen understood very well what he meant, and, without dispute, had returned him some answer to this reproach, had there not been so many witnesses present.

The king afterwards went away, and he ordered his seven notable domestics to take horse, and follow him, because the time was then come to make proof of what they could do. They all expressed their joy to serve him; and got every thing done in less than an hour's time, and went along with him, assuring him, that they would neglect nothing they could do to serve him; and when they were out in the country, shewed their address. Trinquet drank up the lake and ponds, and caught delicate fish for his master's dinner: Lightfoot hunted down ve-

nison, and caught hares by the ears; and for the good Marksman, he neither gave partridge nor pheasant any quarter; and whatever came they killed, Strongback carried it. By this means Fortunio had no occasion to draw his purse-strings all his journey, and might have had very good diversion, if his thoughts had been less employed on those he left behind him. The king's merit was always in his mind, and the queen's malice appeared so great, that he could not but detest her. Thus he travelled all the way very thoughtful, till he was roused from his musings by the shrieks of poor peasants half devoured by the dragon. Some that had escaped, he saw flying as fast as they could, who would not stop nor stay, which obliged him to ride after them to get intelligence. After he had talked with them, and learnt that the dragon was not far off, he asked them how they secured themselves from him. To which they answered, 'That as water was very scarce in that coun-
'try, that they had none but what they preserved when it
'rained in ponds; at which the dragon, when he went
'his rounds came to drink, making a terrible noise and
'roaring, which might be heard a league off; that every
'body hid themselves, and shut their doors and windows.'

The knight went into an inn, not so much to rest himself, as to advise with his horse; When every one was retired and gone to rest, he went into the stable, and said, 'Comrade, how shall we conquer this dragon?' To which the horse replied, 'Sir, I will dream to night,
'and give you an account in the morning; when he came
again, he said, 'Let Fine-Fear listen whether the dra-
'gon is nigh at hand, or not.' Fine-Ear laid himself
on the ground, and heard the dragon about seven leagues
off. When the horse was informed of this, he said to
Fortunio, 'Bid Trinquit go and drink up all the water
'out of a large pond, and Strongback carry wine enough
'to fill it: then let there be dried raisins prepared,
'and salted meats set by it: afterwards order all the
'inhabitants to keep their houses, and likewise do you
'and your attendants the same; the dragon will not
'fail to eat and drink, he will like the wine, and you
will

‘ will see what will happen.’ No sooner had the horse thus appointed what was to be done, but every one did what he was ordered: the knight went to a house, whence he might see the pond; and was no sooner within the doors but the dragon came and drank a little: afterwards he eat some of that repast prepared for him; and then drank so much, that he was quite drunk, infomuch that he could not stir. He was laid on one side, with his head hanging down, and his eyes shut. When Fortunio saw him in this condition, he thought proper to lose no time, but went out with his sword in his hand, and attacked him. The dragon finding himself wounded on all sides, would have got up, and fallen upon the knight, who overjoyed that he had reduced him to this extremity, called his attendants to bind this monster, that the king might have the honour and pleasure of putting an end to his life, and that being so bound, he might be carried without danger, to the capital city.

Fortunio marched at the head of his little troop, and when he was within some few hours march of the palace, he sent Lightfoot to acquaint the king with the good news of his success; which seemed almost incredible, till the monster appeared bound fast upon a machine for that purpose. The king went to Fortunio, embraced him, and said, ‘ The Gods have reserved this victory for you. I am not sensible of half so much joy to see this monster in this condition, as to see my dear knight again.’ Sir (replied he) your majesty yourself may give him the last blow, I brought him hither on purpose that he might receive it at your hand.’ At that the king drew his sword, and killed this his most cruel enemy, while all the people gave shouts and acclamations of joy at success little expected. Florida, who during his absence, had not enjoyed many quiet hours, was not long before she was informed of her charming knight’s return, and ran to tell the queen; who was so much surpris’d and confounded through love and hatred, that she could return no answer to what her favourite told her, but reproached herself a thousand times for the ill turn she had played him; but then again would have been better pleased to

have heard of his death, than to see him so indifferent: insomuch that she knew not whether she should be vexed or pleased at his return to court, where his presence might disturb her repose. The king, impatient to tell her the happy success of so extraordinary an adventure, went into her chamber, leaning on the knight. ‘ Here ‘ is the man (said he) that has vanquished the dragon, ‘ and has done me the greatest service I could desire ‘ from the most faithful subject. It was to you madam, ‘ that he first spoke of his desire to fight that monster, ‘ and I hope you will respect him for the danger to ‘ which he exposed himself.’ The queen composing her countenance, honoured Fortunio with a gracious reception, and a thousand praises, found him much more lovely than when he went away, and gave him to understand how much her heart was wounded, by looking so earnestly at him.

But not satisfied with explaining her sentiments by her eyes, one day as she was hunting with the king, she pretended to be out of order, that she could not follow the dogs: and turning herself towards the young knight, who was just by her, said to him, ‘ You will do ‘ me the pleasure to stay with me, for I have a mind ‘ to alight, and rest myself a little.’ Then bidding those who attended on her to go forwards, she and Fortunio alighted, and sat down by a brook-side, where she remained for some time in a profound silence, thinking on what she should say. Afterwards lifting up her eyes, and fixing them on the knight, she said, ‘ As good intentions do not always shew themselves, I am afraid ‘ you have not penetrated into the motives that engaged ‘ me to press the king to send you to fight the dragon. ‘ I was assured by a fore knowledge, that never deceives ‘ me, that you would behave yourself with bravery, of ‘ which your enemies spoke very indifferently, because ‘ you went not to the army, that you lay under a necessity of performing some such illustrious action ‘ as this to stop their mouths. I should have acquainted ‘ you (continued she) with what they said on this subject, or ought to have done it, but that I was persuaded

‘ ed your resentment would be attended with some
 ‘ fatal consequences, and that it would be better to
 ‘ silence your enemies by your intrepidity in danger,
 ‘ than by an authority that would shew more of the
 ‘ favourite than the soldier.’ ‘ The distance between
 ‘ us is so great, madam (replied he modestly) that I am
 ‘ not worthy of this explanation, nor the care you took
 ‘ to hazard my life for the sake of my honour. Heaven
 ‘ has protected me more than my enemies wished for,
 ‘ and I shall esteem myself always happy to venture for
 ‘ the king, and your service, a life which is more indif-
 ‘ ferent to me than some people imagine.’

This respectful reproach embarrassed the queen, who understood very well what he meant; but she thought him too amiable to exasperate him by too severe a reply. On the contrary she pretended to be of his opinion; and told him again, how gloriously he had slain the dragon. Fortunio had been so cautious, to let no person know that it was owing to the assistance of his retinue, but boasted of his meeting that terrible enemy barefaced, and that the victory was gained entirely by his courage. In the mean time the queen, who thought not so much on what he was telling her, interrupted him, to ask him if he was satisfied how much she was interested in his safety; and that conversation had been carried farther, but he said,
 ‘ Madam, the king is coming this way, I hear the horn,
 ‘ and will not your majesty be pleased to mount again?’
 ‘ No (said she, with an air of rage) it is enough that
 ‘ you go.’ ‘ The king, madam (replied he) will blame
 ‘ me for leaving you alone, in a place exposed to so
 ‘ many dangers.’ ‘ I dispense with this your care
 ‘ (added she in a haughty tone) Go, your presence is
 ‘ troublesome.’ At that the knight made a low bow, mounted his horse, and rid out of sight, very much concerned at the consequences that might attend this new resentment. Upon this he consulted his horse: ‘ Tell
 ‘ me, Comrade (said he) whether this love-sick passion-
 ‘ ate queen will find out another monster for me?’
 ‘ No other beside herself (replied the horse) but she is
 ‘ still more dangerous than the dragon you have killed,
 and

‘ and will exercise both your patience and virtue sufficiently.’ ‘ Will she make me lose the king’s favour (said he) for that is all I am afraid of.’ ‘ I cannot tell what will happen in relation to that (said Comrade) it is enough that I am always upon the watch.’ There was no more said then because the king appeared, and Fortunio went to him, and told him the queen was indisposed, and had ordered him to stay with her, ‘ I think (said the king smiling) you are very much in her favour, and declare your mind more freely to her than to me: I have not yet forgot your request, to her to procure you leave to fight the dragon.’ ‘ Sir, (answered the knight) I dare not pretend to clear myself from what you alledge against me: But I can assure your majesty, I look upon your favour and the queen’s with a great deal of difference; and was a subject allowed to make his sovereign his confidant, I should do myself an infinite pleasure to declare to you the sentiments of my heart.’ Here the king interrupted him, to ask where he had left the queen, who all the time of their discourse was complaining to Florida of Fortunio’s indifference. ‘ The sight of him (cried she) is hateful to me: either he or I must leave the court, for I cannot bear that such an ungrateful wretch should shew me so much disdain; what man would not think himself happy to please so powerful a queen? He is the only person whom the Gods have reserved to disturb the repose of my life.’ Florida was in no wise displeas’d to see her mistress so chagrined, but instead of appeasing her, rather aggravated her, by recalling to her remembrance a thousand circumstances, which she perhaps would not have taken notice of; which increased her rage, and made her think on a new project to ruin the poor knight.

When the king came to her, he expressed his concern for her health; to which she said, ‘ I must own I was very ill, but one cannot be long so, when Fortunio’s by, he is so merry, and his jests are so diverting: but you must know, (continued she) he has desired me to ask another favour of your majesty. He insists, with
‘ the

' the utmost confidence, that he shall succeed in one o
 ' the most rash enterprizes imaginable.' ' What
 ' (cried the king) would he fight with some new dra-
 ' gon?' ' With a great many at once (said she) and
 ' makes as if he was sure to conquer. I will tell you;
 ' in short, he boasts to make the emperor restore us to
 ' all our treasures, and to do it without an army.'
 ' What a pity is this (replied the king) that this poor
 ' boy should be guilty of so much extravagance?' ' His
 ' victory over the dragon (added the queen) has puffed
 ' him up; and what do you hazard, in giving him
 ' leave to expose himself again for your service?' ' I
 ' hazard his life, which is dear to me (replied the king)
 ' I should be very sorry to be the occasion of his death.'
 To this the queen answered, that his desire was so great,
 that if he refused, he would languish and die away.
 The king upon this, looked very melancholy, and said,
 ' I cannot imagine who it is that fills his head with these
 ' chimeras; it is unknown what I endure to see him in
 ' this condition.' ' Why the matter is (replied the
 ' queen) he has fought a dragon, and been victorious,
 ' perhaps he may succeed as well in this; I have often
 ' a very just foresight, and my mind now tells me, that
 ' this undertaking will not be unfortunate; therefore,
 ' brother, oppose not his zeal.' ' Let him be called
 ' then, (said the king) and his dangers be represented
 ' to him.' ' That is the way to make him despair,
 ' (replied the queen) he will believe you are against his
 ' going; and I assure you he is not to be detained by
 ' any consideration that regards himself; for I said all
 ' that can be thought on that subject.' ' Well (cried
 ' the king) I consent.' Upon this, the queen was over-
 joyed, and called Fortunio in: ' Go, knight (said she)
 ' and thank the king; he has granted the leave you so
 ' much desired, to go to the emperor Matapa, and make
 ' him, by fare means or force, restore our treasures:
 ' make the same dispatch, as when you went to fight
 ' the dragon.'

Fortunio at first was surpris'd, but was soon sensible
 that this proceeded from the queen's rage; however he
 felt

felt a secret pleasure, in being able to lay down his life for a prince that was so dear to him: and without excusing himself from such an extraordinary commission, kneeled on one knee and kissed the king's hand, whose heart at that instant relented. The queen felt an inward shame, to see with what respect he behaved himself, though sent to meet a certain death. 'Would to heaven (said she to herself) he had any regard for me; how noble it is not to contradict what I have advanced, but rather to bear the ill turn I have done him, than complain!' The king said little to the knight, but mounted his horse again; and the queen pretended all that time to be ill went into her chaise. Fortunio accompanied them to the end of the forest, and afterwards returned back to have some discourse with his horse: 'My faithful Comrade (said he) 'tis done, I must die, the queen has compleated that which I never expected from her.' 'My lovely master (replied the horse) fright not yourself, though I have not been present at what is passed, I know all; the embassy is not so terrible as you imagine.' 'You do not know (continued the knight) that this emperor is the most passionate of all men; and that if I propose that he restore what he has taken from the king my master, he will return me no other answer, than order a stone to be tied about my neck, that I may be thrown into a river.' 'I am not uninformed of his violence; (said Comrade) but that does not hinder you from taking your people along with you, and if we perish, it shall be one and all; but I hope for better success.'

The knight returned home somewhat comforted, where he gave the necessary orders, and afterwards went to receive his credentials. 'Tell the emperor (said the king) that I remand back all my subjects he has in slavery, all my soldiers that are prisoners, all my horses and other goods and treasure.' 'What must I offer him for all this?' (said Fortunio.) 'Nothing (answered the king) but my friendship.' The young ambassador had no occasion for a great memory to keep these instructions in his mind; He went without seeing

seeing the queen, at which she was very angry: but he had no reason to regard that; for what could she do more in the height of her rage, than what she had accomplished in the greatest transport of friendship? and a tenderness of this kind was to him the most formidable thing in the world. Nay, her confidant, who knew the whole secret, was enraged against her mistress, for striving to sacrifice the flower of all knighthood. Fortunio took whatever was necessary for his journey out of his turkey-leather trunk, and was not content to cloath himself magnificently, but his seven servants also: and as they had all excellent horses, and Comrade seemed rather to fly than run, they arrived soon at the emperor's capital, which was no ways inferior to any city of Europe.

Fortunio was very much surpris'd to see a town of such a large extent. He demanded an audience of the emperor, and had it granted: but when he declared the subject of his embassy, though it was with a grace that gave force to his arguments, the emperor could not help smiling. 'Were you at the head of five hundred thousand men, (said he) one might hearken to you; where-
' as, I am told you have only seven.' 'I never under-
' took, Sir (said Fortunio) to compel you by force of
' arms, but only by some remonstrances.' 'Whatever
' those be (added the emperor) you shall never bring
' them to bear, unless you will do a thing that is just
' now come into my head, that is, to find a man that
' can eat for his breakfast as much hot bread as serves
' this city for a whole day.' The knight, at this propo-
sition, seemed overjoyed, and as he spoke not presently, the emperor burst out into a laughter. 'Sir (said For-
' tunio) I accept of your proposition, and will bring to-
' morrow a man, who shall not only eat all the new
' bread, but also the stale; order it to be brought out,
' and you shall have the pleasure of seeing him lick up
' the very crumbs.' The emperor said he consented; and all the discourse of that day ran upon the folly of this ambassador, whom Matapa swore he would put to death, if he was not as good as his word. When he returned
back

back to the house where ambassadors were lodged, he called Grugeon, and told him what had passed between him and the emperor. 'Never be uneasy master (said Grugeon) I will eat till they be tired first.' However, notwithstanding this assurance of Grugion's, Fortunio could not help being under some apprehensions, but forbid him from eating any supper, that he might eat his breakfast the better.

A belcony was raised on purpose for the emperor, and his consort and daughter, to see this sight. Fortunio came with his little train; and when he saw six great mountains of bread, he turned pale; which had a quite contrary effect upon Grugeon, he being pleased therewith. The emperor laughed and jested with all his court at the knight and his retinue's extravagant undertaking, while Grugeon was impatient for the signal. At last it was made by the sounding of trumpets, and beat of drum, and Grugeon fell upon one of the heaps, and devoured it in less than a quarter of an hour, and after that all the rest. Never was greater astonishment! every body thought it was a piece of witchcraft, or that their eyes deceived them: which made them go to the place where the bread was piled up to be satisfied. Fortunio, who was infinitely well pleased with his good success, went to the emperor and asked him if he would be as good as his word, to which the emperor, enraged to be thus over-reached, replied, that it was too much to eat without drinking: therefore he, or some of his train, must drink all the water in the aqueducts and fountains that were in that city, and all the wine in its cellars. 'Sir, (said Fortunio) you will put it out of my power to obey your commands; however, I will try, if I may flatter myself that you will restore to my master what I have demanded.' 'It shall be done, (said the emperor) if you succeed in your undertaking.' The knight asked the emperor, if he himself would be present; he answered, yes, he would, because so rare an action deserved his curiosity: and getting that instant into his chariot, carried him to a fountain of seven marble lions, which vomited up as much water as formed a
large

large river. Trinquit made up to the bafon, and without fo much as ever fetching his breath, drank it up, and left the fifhes in the mud and fand. In like manner he did by all the aqueducts and ponds belonging to the city. After this experiment, the emperor never doubted but he would drink the wine as well as the water: fo that he, as well as the owners, had no inclination to try him: but Trinquit complained highly of that injuflice, alleging that he had as much right to the wine as the water; infomuch that the emperor, that he might not be thought altogether covetous, confented to his defires. After that Fortunio, taking his opportunity, put him in mind of his promife; which he being unwilling to perform put him out of humour. He called his council, and told them how much he was concerned, that he had promifed this young ambaffador to return what he had taken from his mafter; but withal, he thought the conditions he agreed on were impracticable: therefore he afsembled them, to know how he might avoid what was fo much againft his intereft and inclination. The princefs his daughter, who was a very beautiful princefs, having heard how much he was embarrassed, came to him, and faid, ‘ Sir, as you know that none that ever ran with
‘ me, could ever boast of the victory, if you think pro-
‘ per I will contend with him, and if he reaches firft the
‘ goal, you promife not to elude the word you have
‘ given.’

The emperor embraced his daughter, approved of her propofal, and the next day, when Fortunio came to an audience, faid to him, ‘ I have one thing more to
‘ inform you of, which is, that if you, or any of your at-
‘ tendants will run againft the princes, I fwear by all
‘ the elements, that if you or he gain the race, I will
‘ give your mafter all manner of fatisfaction. Fortunio accepted the challenge, and Matapa appointed the time to be within two hours, and accordingly fent to his daughter, to bid her prepare herfelf againft that time for the exercife, which was what fhe had been ufed to from her cradle. She appeared at the time in a long walk of orange-trees above three miles long, which was fo carefully

fully rolled and managed, that there was not a stone so big as a pea to be seen. She was dressed in a light gown of rose-coloured taffety, embroidered in the seams with gold and silver; her hair, which was very fine, was tied behind her with a ribbon, and fell carelessly on her shoulders; her shoes were made like pumps, without heels; she had on a girdle of jewels, to shew her shape, which was delicate: in short she thus appeared like another Atalanta. Soon after Fortunio followed, attended by Lightfoot and his other domestics. The emperor and the whole court, were present, and seated along the walk, when the ambassador proposed Lightfoot to have the honour to run with the princess. He was furnished out of the miraculous trunk, with a fine white Holland habit, adorned with Flanders lace, silk stockings of a fire-colour, with a white plume of feathers in his cap. In this dress he appeared to have a good mien, but the princess made no exceptions against him; but before she set out, she had liquor brought, to make her more swift and strong. Our racer demanded the same; the princess said, that it was too just a request to be refused, and ordered that he might have some; but as he was not used to that liquor, which was very strong, it got into his head, and he lay down by an orange-tree, and fell fast asleep. In the mean time the signal was given, and was repeated three times. The princess waited sometime that lightfoot might awake and come to himself; but thinking it a matter of great consequence to free her father from his promise, she set out with a charming grace and wonderful swiftness.

Fortunio was at the other end of the walk, and knew nothing of what had happened, when he saw the princess running by herself and within half a mile of the goal. 'O ye powers! (cried he, speaking to his horse) we are undone, I see nothing of Lightfoot.' 'Sir (said Comrade) let Fine ear listen, he perhaps may inform you whereabouts he is.' Thereupon Fine-ear laid himself down, and though he was three miles off, heard him snore; whereupon he said to them, he had no thoughts of coming, for that he was in as sound a sleep as if he was in his bed.

'Alas!

‘ Alas! (cried Fortunio again) what shall we do?’ ‘ O!’ (said Comrade) let the good Marksman let fly an arrow in the tip of his ear, to awake him.’ At that he took his bow immediately, and hit him so nicely, that the arrow went quite through his ear; the pain and anguish of which awakened him, and when he opened his eyes, he saw the princess almost at the goal, and heard great shouts and acclamations of joy. At first he was surprised, but he soon recovered what he had lost by sleeping: he seemed as if he had been carried by the wind and in short arrived first at the goal, with the arrow in his ear; for he had not time to pull it out. The emperor was so much amazed at the extraordinary things that had happened since the arrival of the ambassador, that he believed the gods interested themselves in his behalf, and that he could no longer defer the performance of his promise. He ordered the ambassador to come to him, and said, ‘ I consent that you take along with you as much of your master’s treasures as one man can carry; for I will never part with any more.’ The ambassador made a low bow, and thanked his majesty, and desired him to give orders that they might be delivered to him. Matapa accordingly spoke to his treasurer, and afterwards went to his palace of retreat, within some few miles of the city. Fortunio and his attendants went immediately and demanded entrance to the place where all the treasure was kept. Strongback presented himself, and by his assistance the ambassador carried off most of the furniture that was in the emperor’s palace; as five hundred gigantic statues of gold, coaches and chariots, and all manner of conveniences; and with these Strong back walked as nimbly as if he had not above a pound weight on his back.

When the ministers of state saw the palace thus gutted, they made all the haste imaginable to acquaint the emperor; whose amazement was not to be expressed, when they told him that one man carried all: he cried out he would not allow it; and immediately ordered his guards to mount, and to pursue those robbers of his treasury. And though Fortunio was then above ten miles off,

Fine ear told him, that he heard a great body of horse coming after them with full speed: and the good Marksman, whose sight was excellent, saw them, just as they themselves came to the river-side. Fortunio said to Trinquit, 'As we have no boats, you must drink up this water, that we may pass it.' Which Trinquit readily performed; and Fortunio was for making all possible haste to get away, when his horse bid him not be uneasy, but let the enemy approach. Soon after, they appeared on the banks of the river, and knowing where the fishermen's boats lay, embarked immediately. When the Boisterer began to swell his cheeks, and with a sudden blast over-set the boats, so that not one of that detachment escaped. This happy success puffed them up with so great expectation, that every one began to think of the recompence he deserved, and were for making themselves masters of all the riches they were carrying with them; whereupon a great dispute arose among them: Lightfoot said, 'They had got nothing if he had not won the race. 'Well (said Fine-ear) if I had not heard you snore, where had you been then?' 'And who would have awaken'd you, if I had not?' (added the Marksman) 'Well (said Strong-back) I cannot but admire you for your disputes: sure none dare pretend to lay so good a claim as myself, since I carried all, and without my assistance, you would not have been able to have partaken of them.' 'Say rather without mine (interrupted Trinquit) since you were in a bad plight, if I had not drank your way.' 'Nay, and you were equally in the same danger (said the Boisterer) had I not over-set the boats,' 'Hitherto (interrupted Grugeon) I have held my peace, but I cannot forbear representing to you, that I opened the scene to all these events; for if I had left one crust of bread, all had been lost.'

'Friends (said Fortunio, with an air of command) you have all done wonders; but we ought to leave it to the king to recompense our services; for I should be sorry to be rewarded by any other besides him. Let us all trust to his generosity, he sent us to fetch

‘ his riches, and not to rob him of them; which thought
 ‘ is so shameful, that in my opinion it ought to be
 ‘ smothered: for my own part, I will do so well by you,
 ‘ that you shall have no reason to repine, should it be
 ‘ possible for the king to neglect you.’

The seven gifted men penetrated with this remon-
 strance of their master, threw themselves at his feet, and
 promised that his will should be theirs. After all this,
 the lovely Fortunio found himself, as he drew nigh the
 city, agitated with a thousand different troubles; the
 joy that he had done the king such considerable services,
 for whom he had so great an attachment, and the hope
 to see him again, and be favourably received by him,
 flattered him most agreeably. On the other hand, the
 fear of enraging the queen, and being persecuted again
 by her and Florida, put him into a heavy concern. In
 short, he arrived at the town, where the people, overjoyed
 to see so much riches and treasure, followed him to the
 palace with great acclamations of joy. The king, who
 could scarcely believe such extraordinary news, ran to
 acquaint the queen with it, who was at first struck on a
 heap, but recovering herself afterwards, said, ‘ The
 ‘ Gods protect him, therefore I am not surpris’d he
 ‘ should succeed in what he undertakes.’ And just as
 she made an end of these words, she saw him enter the
 room. He informed their majesties of what he had done,
 and added, that the treasures were left in the park, no
 other place being large enough to hold them: and we
 must easily believe the king expressed a great friendship
 for so loving and faithful a subject.

The knight’s presence, and the advantages of his good
 fortune, opened again and dilated those wounds in the
 queen’s heart which were hardly closed up: she thought
 him more charming than ever, and as soon as she was at
 liberty to talk with Florida, she renewed her complaints,
 ‘ You know (said she) what I have done to ruin him,
 ‘ which I thought was the only means to forget him, yet
 ‘ his unparalleled good fortune brings him safe home
 ‘ again: and whatever reasons I have to despise a man
 ‘ so much inferior to me, and who has repaid my senti-
 ‘ ments

' timents with the blackest ingratitude, I cannot forbear
 ' loving him, and am resolved to marry him privately.'
 ' Marry him, madam! (cried Florida) it is impossible;
 ' certainly my ears sail me.' ' No (replied the queen)
 ' you know my intention, and must second me in it.
 ' I charge you to bring Fortunio this night into my clo-
 ' set; I will myself declare to him the love I have for
 ' him.' Florida in despair to be made the instrument
 of her mistress's marriage with her lover, forgot nothing
 she could say to dissuade the queen from seeing him.
 She represented that the king would be angry, should it
 be found out, and perhaps might put the knight to
 death, or at least would condemn him to perpetual im-
 prisonment, where she would never have the sight of
 him again: but all her eloquence was in vain: she saw
 the queen began to be in a passion, and therefore was
 obliged to obey her. She found Fortunio in the gallery
 of the palace, ranging in order the golden statues he
 brought from the emperor Matapa. She went to him,
 with the message from the queen, which made him trem-
 ble, and caused Florida no small trouble. ' O heavens!
 ' (said she) how much I pity you; why could not that
 ' princess's heart escape you? Alas! I know one not
 ' half so dangerous, that dares not explain itself.' The
 knight would not engage in this new declaration; too
 much was he chagrined already, but left her, and as he
 had no desire to please the queen, dressed himself but in-
 differently, that she might not think he strove to set him-
 self off; but if he could throw off his jewels and embroi-
 deries, he could not do the same by his natural charms.
 The queen, for her part, did what she could to heighten
 the lustre of her's by an extraordinary fine dress, and
 observed with pleasure that Fortunio seemed surpris'd,
 ' Appearances (said she) are sometimes so deceitful,
 ' that I was willing to justify myself concerning what
 ' you have thought without doubt of my conduct;
 ' when I engaged the king to send you to the emperor;
 ' it seemed in all appearance as if I designed to sacrifice
 ' you; but depend upon it, good knight, I knew what
 ' would happen, and had no other views than your im-
 mortal

‘honour.’ ‘Madam (said he) you are too much above me to need any explanation; I enter not into the motives that engaged you; it is enough for me that I obey the king my sovereign.’ ‘You shew too much indifference (added she) for the declaration I make you of my sentiments; but it is time I convince you of my bounty. Come, Fortunio, receive my hand as the pledge of my faith.’

The poor knight, quite thunder-struck, was twenty times going to acquaint the queen with his sex, but durst not; and answering those tokens of friendship with great coldness, used a great many arguments upon the king’s anger, when he should know a subject durst be so bold as to contract in his court, so important a marriage without his consent. After the queen had endeavoured though in vain, to remove the obstacles which he seemed to fear, she all on a sudden assumed the countenance and voice of a fury, loaded him with menaces and wrongs, and fought and scratched him; after that, turning her rage upon herself, she tore off her hair, claw’d her face and neck till she was all in a gore blood, rent her veil and head dress all in pieces, and then called in her guards, ordered them to carry the wretch, as she called him, to some dungeon, and in the mean time ran herself to the king to demand justice against that young monster: telling him that he had a long time the boldness to declare his passion, and that in hopes that absence and her severities might have cured him, she had let no opportunity slip, as he might well observe, to have him removed out of the way; but that he was one that nothing could change: that he himself was a witness to what extremities his passion had brought him, that she would have him prosecuted with all rigour; and that if he refused her that justice, she should be obliged to stand upon her own guard for the future.

The manner in which she spoke, amased the king, he knew her to be a woman of a most violent temper, and that withal she had a great power, and could raise great distractions in the kingdom. For-

tunio's boldness deserved an exemplary punishment: what was passed was publicly known to the whole world, and it was his duty to revenge his sister's affront: but alas! on whom was his fury to light? on a knight who had exposed his life to the greatest dangers, to whom he owed his quiet and all his treasures, and one, besides, for whom he had a particular value and love. He would have almost lost his own life to save this dear favourite. He represented to the queen the services he had done both him and the state, his youth, and whatever might induce her to forgive him: but she would give no ear to what he said, but demanded his life. The king seeing he could not possibly avoid his being tried, appointed judges, that he thought to be the most mild and susceptible of tenderness, who might put the most favourable construction upon the letter of the law: but he was mistaken in his conjectures: the judges were for establishing their reputation at this poor unhappy knight's expence: and as it was an affair that would make a great noise in the world, they armed themselves with the utmost rigour, and condemned Fortunio without hearing him plead for himself. His sentence was to receive three stabs in the heart, as the heart was the principal part concerned.

The king dreaded this sentence as much as if it was to have been pronounced against himself; he banished all the judges, but could not save his beloved Fortunio, while the queen triumphed in the punishment he was to suffer. The king made use of fresh arguments, which only exasperated her the more. To be short, the day appointed for this horrid execution came: the knight was brought out of the prison where he had been kept from the speech of all persons, not knowing the crime he was accused of, but imagined it was some new persecution which his indifference for the queen had brought upon him; yet what troubled him the most was, he thought the king seconded that princess in what she

she

she did. In the mean time Florida, inconsolable for the condition to which her lover was reduced, took a resolution of the utmost violence, which was to poison both the queen and herself, if Fortunio was to suffer death so unjustly. As soon as she knew the sentence, despair possessed her soul, and she thought of nothing but the execution of her designs; but it happened that the poison was not prepared so strong as she intended it: Insomuch that though she had given it the queen, she felt not presently the effects of it, but had the lovely knight brought to the great space before the palace, that she might have the satisfaction of seeing him die. When the executioners had taken him out of the dungeon where he lay, and brought him like a tender lamb going to the slaughter; the first object that his eyes beheld when he came upon the scaffold, was the queen, who thought she could not be too nigh, being desirous to have his blood spurt on her. But alas! the poor king shut himself up in his closet, that he might with more freedom bewail the Fate of his dear favourite.

But when they had bound Fortunio, and came to open his breast; how great was the surprise of that numerous assembly, when they saw the white breast of a lovely maid, and knew that she was an innocent damsel unjustly accused! the queen was in so great a confusion, that the poison began to work, and threw her into strong convulsions, out of which she never recovered but to express her bitter regret. In the mean time the people, who loved Fortunio, set her at liberty; and the news was presently carried to the king, who had abandoned himself to melancholy. At that instant joy took place; he ran to the palace, and was charmed to see the new metamorphosis of his dear Fortunio; however, the last sighs and groans of the queen suspended in some measure his transports; but when he came to reflect on her malice, he was not sorry. He resolved to marry this his young heroine, to repay with a crown his great obligations to her; and declared his intentions to her,

which we may easily believe completed the height of her desires, which were not so much to be a queen, as to enjoy the person of a prince for whom she had always entertained a most tender affection. The day of celebrating the marriage was fixed; our young knight laid aside her man's habit, and assumed that of her own sex, in which she appeared a thousand times more beautiful. She consulted her horse what adventures should happen to her for the future; but as he could promise none more agreeable, she in gratitude for the great services he had done her, built him a stable paved with ebony and ivory, and instead of being littered with straw, he lay always on mats of fatten: and for the seven attendants, they were all rewarded according to their services.

After all this was done, news was brought to our young queen that comrade was not to be found; which was no less trouble to the king, who adored her, than to herself. She made inquiry for three days, all to no purpose, and on the fourth she arose with the morning, and went into the garden, which she crossed, and so into a thick wood, and thence into a large meadow, called out, 'Comrade! my dear Comrade! where art thou? what, do you forsake me! I have occasion for thy advice;' And as she was talking after this manner, she saw all on a sudden another sun arising in the west, which made her stand to admire that prodigy; but her amazement still increased to see it approach her nigher, and especially when she knew her horse again covered with jewels, and prancing before a chariot of pearls and topazes, drawn by four and twenty sheep that were covered with gold fringe instead of wool: their harness was crimson fatten, buckled on with emeralds, their horns were adorned with carbunkles. The new queen knew the fairy her protectress in the chariot, and her father and two sisters, who cried out clapping their hands, and making professions of friendship, that they were come to her wedding. Their sister, for her part, thought she should have expired with

with joy at seeing them again: she neither knew what she said or did: but at last recovering herself, she got into the chariot, and returned with this pompous equipage to the palace; where every thing was prepared for celebrating the most magnificent Feast that ever was made in that kingdom. Thus the enamoured king united himself to his fair deliverer, and afforded us this charming adventure, which has been handed down from one age to another.

THE
 S T O R Y
 OF
 PERFECT LOVE.

IN one of those agreeable countries that depend on the empire of the fairies, there reigned the formidable Danamo, who was as knowing in her art, as cruel in her actions, and boasting of the honour of being defended from the celebrated Calipso, whose charms had the glory and power of starving the famous Ulyses, and triumping over the prudence of the conquerors of Troy. She was lusty, had a wild look and her pride made her with some difficulty submit

to the hard laws of matrimony: for love was not able to reach her heart: but the design of uniting a flourishing kingdom to that she was queen of, and another she had usurped, made her consent to marry an old neighbouring king, who died some few years after their marriage, and left the fairy a daughter called Azira, who was very ugly: but appeared not so in the eye of Danamo, who thought her charming, perhaps because like herself. She was to be the queen of three kingdoms, which circumstance qualified all her defects, and caused her to be asked in the marriage by the most powerful princes of the neighbouring countries.

This together with the blind fondness of Danamo, rendered her vanity insupportable, since she was desired with an ardour which she did in no wise deserve. But as Danamo thought of nothing but rendering the princess's happiness compleat, she brought up in her palace a young prince, her Brother's son who was called Parcinus: he had a noble air, a delicate shape, a fine head of hair, so admirably white, that love himself might have been jealous of his power; for that god never had golden shafts more sure of triumphing over hearts without resistance, than the eyes of Parcinus. He did every thing well, danced and sung extraordinary fine, and gained all the prizes at tournaments, when ever he contended for them.

This young prince was the delight of the court; and Danamo, who had her designs, was not against the respect and value they shewed him. The king, his father, was the fairy's brother, whom she declared war against without any pretence whatsoever.

This king fought courageously at the head of his troops; but what could an army do against so powerful a fairy as Danamo? who suffered the victory not to balance long after her brother's death, who was killed in the action, with one stroke of her wand dispersed her enemies and became mistress of the kingdom.

Parcinus was then an infant in arms: they brought him

him to Danamo; for it would have been in vain to have concealed him from a fairy: he had then such engaging smiles, that they won all hearts: and Danamo caressing him, in a few days after carried him home with her to her own kingdom.

The prince was about eighteen years old, when the fairy willing to execute what she had so long designed, resolved to marry him with her daughter; and not doubting but the prince, who was born one, but by his misfortunes made a subject, would be overjoyed to become one day a sovereign of three empires, sent for the princess, and discovered to her the choice she had made.

The princess harkened to this discourse with an emotion that made the fairy think that this resolution in favor of Parcinus, displeased her daughter.— I see (said she to her, observing her disorder increase) that your ambition carries you so far, that you would add to your empire the dominions of one of these kings, who have demanded you so often. But what kings may not Parcinus overcome? his courage is beyond every thing: the subjects of a prince so accomplished, may some time revolt in his favor; and by giving you to him, I make sure of the possession of his kingdom. And for his person, we need not speak of that; you know the proudest beauties are not able to resist his charms.

The princess casting herself suddenly at the feet of the fairy, interrupted her discourse, and confessed to her, that her heart had not had the power to withstand that young victor, so famous for his conquests. But (added she blushing) I have given the insensible Parcinus a thousand marks of my tenderness, which he received with a coldness that makes me despair. It was because he durst not raise his thoughts up to you (replied the proud fairy) he was without doubt afraid of displeasing me; I know his respect.

This flattering opinion was too agreeable to the princess's inclination and vanity, for her not to be persuaded

persuaded to it. In short, the fairy sent for Parcinius, who came to her in a magnificent chariot, where she and the princess her daughter, waited for him: when she said to him, as soon as she saw him, 'Call all your courage to your aid: I sent for you not to continue your misfortune, but for your good: reign, Parcinius: and to compleat your happiness, reign by marrying my daughter.' I, madam! (cried the young prince in an amazement, wherein it was easy to perceive his joy had not the greatest share) I marry the princess, (continued he, falling back some steps) alas! what god concerns himself in my fate, not to leave it to him alone from whom I ask assistance.

These words were pronounced by the prince with an heat which his heart had too great a share in to be withstood by his reason. The fairy thought that this unlooked for happiness had put him beside himself; but the princess loved, and love makes lovers more penetrating than wisdom itself. 'What god, Parcinius' (said she to him with disorder) do you so tenderly implore the assistance of; I know too well I have no share in the vows you offer up to him.'

The young prince, had had time to recover his first surprise, and who knew he had been guilty of an imprudence in what he had said, summoned all his wit to the aid of his heart, and answered the princess more gallantly than she hoped for; and thanked the fairy with an air of grandeur, that shewed him not only worthy the empire offered him, but that of the whole world.

Danamo, and her proud daughter, who were both satisfied with this discourse, settled all things before they went out of the closet: the fairy deferred the day of the nuptials, only to give the court time to prepare themselves on so great an occasion. After this, the news of Parcinius's marriage with Azira, was spread all about the court; and the courtiers came in crowds to congratulate the prince.

Parcinius received all their compliments with an air

air of coldness, which very much surpris'd his new subjects, that he should appear chagrin'd and out of humour: all the rest of the day he was perplexed with the congratulations of the whole court, and the continual declarations of Azira's passion.

What a condition was the young prince in, who was seiz'd with a lively grief? the day seem'd to him a thousand times longer than ordinary. The impatient Parcinius longed for night, which at last came; when with haste he left that place where he had suffered so much, and went to his own apartment; and after having sent all his attendants away, opened a door that went into the gardens of the palace, which he crossed, followed only by a young slave.

A fine but small river ran at the end of these gardens, and separated the fairy's palace from a castle flanked with four towers, and surrounded by a deep ditch that was filled by the river: thither flew parcinius's wishes and desires.

A wonder was shut up in it, which treasure, Danamo had carefully guarded. It was a young princess, her sister's daughter, who when she died left her to the care of the fairy; her beauty worthy of the admiration of the whole world, appearing too dangerous for Danamo to permit her to be seen nigh Azira. Sometimes the charming Irolita, which was her name, was suffered to come to the palace to see the fairy, and the princess her daughter; but was never allowed to appear in public: yet her charms though concealed, were not unknown to the world.

The prince Parcinius saw her with the princess Azira, and adored her from that very moment.— Their nearness of blood gave this young prince no privilege with Irolita: for after she was grown up, the merciless Danamo permitted none to see her.

In the mean time, Parcinius burnt with a raging flame, which the charms of Irolita had kindled: she was about fourteen years old, her beauty was perfect, her hair of a fine brown, her complexion blooming as the spring; her mouth delicate, her teeth admirably

rably white and even; and her smiles engaging, her eyes were of a fine hazle colour, and piercing, and her looks seemed to speak a thousand things her young heart as yet knew nothing of.

She had been brought up in great solitude, nigh the fairy's palace, in the castle where she lived: but saw no more of the world than if she had been in a desert. Danamo's orders where so exactly obeyed, that the fair Irolita passed her days only among those women appointed her, whose number was very small, but yet as many as were necessary in so lonely and retired a court; however, Fame, which regarded not Danamo, published so many wonders of this young princess, that persons at the greatest distance from the court, offered themselves to be with the young Irolita. And her presence belied not what fame had reported, since they always found her worthy their admiration.

A governante of great wit and knowledge, formerly attached to the princess her mother, lived with her, and often groaned under the rigours of Danamo toward the charming Irolita: she was called Mana; and her desire of setting the princes at liberty and restoring her to her right and dignity, made her yield to Parcinus's love. It was then three years since he was introduced into the castle in the habit of a slave; at which time he found her in the garden, and discovered to her his passion; and as she was then but a child, she loved Parcinus only as a brother. Mana, who was never absent long from her, surpris'd the young prince in the garden one day, when he acquainted her with his love for the princess, and the design he had formed to lose his life or restore her liberty? and seeking, by shewing himself to his subjects, a glorious revenge on Danamo, and placed Irolita on the throne. As the rising merit of Parcinus was capable of rendering the most difficult projects credible, and was the only means to deliver Irolita, Mana suffered him to come sometimes to the castle, when it was night; but never let him see the

princess, except in her presence. He, with his tender discourse, and his constant sedulities, endeavoured to inspire in her as violent a passion as his own. Thus employed for three years, he went almost every night to the castle, and spent all the days in nothing but thinking of the princess. But to return to where we left him crossing the gardens, followed by a slave, and pierced with grief at the resolutions of the fairy; when he came to the river-side, a gilded boat which Azira sometimes took the air in, that was fastened to the bank served to carry this amorous prince over. The slave rowed, and as soon as Parcinus had got up a silken ladder, that was thrown out from off a little terrass, that fronted the castle, the faithful slave rowed the boat back again, where he waited for the signal he made him, which was to shew him a lighted flambeaux from off the terrass.— That night the prince took his usual tour; the silken ladder was let down, and he entered without any obstacle the young Irolita's chamber, whom he found laid on the bed all in tears: but the beauty that appeared in that melancholy posture, had an extraordinary effect on the prince!

‘What ails my princess? (said he, falling on his knees by the bedside whereupon she lay? what could cause these precious tears? alas! (continued he sighing) have I yet new misfortunes to hear?’ the tears and sighs of these young lovers were intermixed, and they were forced to vent their passion before they could tell the cause of their grief. At length the young prince desired Irolita to tell him what new severity the fairy had used to her, ‘She will marry Azira (answered the beautiful Irolita blushing) which, of all her cruelties, is the most painful to me.’ ‘O my dear princess (cried the prince) you fear lest I should marry Azira: my fate is a thousand times more kind than I thought it.’ ‘Can you praise fate, (replied the young Irolita, languishingly) when it is ready to separate us? I cannot express the torments, the dread of that makes me feel. O! Parcinus, you are in the right, the love of a lover, and that of a brother is quite different. The amorous prince thought to thank his fortune; he never till then

knew the love the young Irolita had for him : and, in short, could no longer doubt of the good fortune of having inspired such tender sentiments into the princess. This happiness, which he did not expect, roused up all his hopes. ‘No (cried he in a transport) I despair not now of overcoming our misfortunes, since I am assured of your tenderness. Let us fly, my princess, let us avoid the rage of Danamo, and her hateful Daughter ; let us not trust to so fatal an abode ; love alone will make us happy.’ ‘Should I go away with you (replied the princess with surprise) what would the world say of my flight?’ Lay aside these vain reflections, (said Irolita) interrupted the impatient Parcinius ; every circumstance urges us to leave this place ; let us go——’ ‘But where will you go ! (replied the prudent Mana, who was always with them, and who, less engaged than those young lovers, foresaw all the difficulties in their flight) ‘I will give you an account of my design (replied the prince) but how did you hear so soon the news from the fairy’s court ? A relation of mine (answered Mana) writ to me as soon as it was whispered about the palace, and I thought it my duty to inform the princess of it.’ ‘And what have I endured since ? (replied the lovely Irolita) no, Parcinius, I cannot live without you.’ The young prince transported with love, and charmed with these words, kissed Irolita’s hand with an ardour and tenderness, that had all the thanks of a first and most agreeable favour. Day began to appear, and informed Parcinius too soon that it was time he retired, when he assured the princess he would come again the next night, and impart to her his project : he got to the boat and slave again, and retired to his apartment. He was so overjoyed with the pleasure of being beloved by the fair Irolita, and agitated by the difficulties he foresaw they should meet with in their flight, that sleep could not calm that uneasiness, nor make him forget a moment of his happiness.

It was hardly morning, when a dwarf entered his chamber, and presented him with a fine scarf from the princess Azira, who by a billet more tender than he

wished

wished for, desired him to wear from that day that scarf. He sent an answer, which very much confounded him; but he was obliged to it, to deliver Irolita, and to constrain himself for her liberty. When he had sent Azira's Dwarf away, a giant came from Danamo, and presented him with a sabre of extraordinary beauty, the handle of which was of one single stone, more beautiful than a diamond, and which gave a great light in the night; on this sabre were engraved these words.

For the hand of a conqueror.

Parcinus was mightily pleased with the fairy's present, and went and thanked her with that and the scarf on. The tenderness of Irolita suspended all disquiets; she had raised in his heart that sweet and perfect satisfaction successful love feels: a pleasant air appeared in all his actions, which Azira attributed to her charms, and the fairy to Parcinus's ambition: the day was spent in pleasures and diversions, which in no wise diminished the insupportable length Parcinus thought it.

In the evening they took the air in the gardens of the palace, and on the same river so well known to the prince, who in going in the boat, felt a sensible concern, to see what difference there was between the pleasures it used to give him, and the cruel torments he then endured. Parcinus could not forbear looking often at the habitation of the charming Irolita, who never appeared when the fairy or Azira were on the water. That Princess, who watched all the actions of the prince, observed that his eyes were often turned towards the castle.—
 'What do you look at, prince? (said she) in the midst of honours done you, is Irolita's prison worthy your regard?' 'Yes, madam (replied the prince very imprudently) I am sensible of the sufferings of those who deserve them not.' You are too compassionate (answered Azira disdainfully) but to ease you of your pain, I can tell you, Irolita will not be long a prisoner.—
 'And what will become of her (replied the young prince short) 'The queen will marry her in five days to the
 prince

‘ prince Brutus (returned Azira :) he is of our blood you know, and according to the intentions of the queen, he will the next day after their marriage carry Irolita into a fortress, from whence she will never return to court.’ ‘ What! (said the prince, in an extraordinary disorder) will the queen give that beautiful princess to so hideous a prince, whose ill qualities exceed his deformity? what cruelty is this?’ (This last word came from him against his will, but he could no longer conceal his resentment. ‘ I thought that you, of all people, Parcinus (answered the princess haughtily) should not complain of Danamo’s cruelties.’ This conversation, without doubt, had been pushed too far for the young prince, whose business it was to dissemble, if the attendants of Azira had not come up, and the fairy, appeared on the river side. Azira returned to the fairy, and Parcinus coming out of the boat, feigned to be sick, that he might have the more liberty to go and complain, without any witness of his new misfortunes.

The fairy, and above all Azira, shewed a great uneasiness for his being ill. He retired, accusing fate a thousand times for the misfortunes that threatened the charming Irolita, abandoning himself to all his grief and tenderness; but beginning at length to recover those disorders faithful lovers are so subject to, he writ in the most moving expressions his love could dictate, to one of his aunts, whose name was Favourable; who was a fairy as well as Danamo, but one who took as much pleasure in comforting and assisting the unfortunate, as Danamo did in making them so. He told her to what a cruel condition his love and fortune had reduced him; and not daring to leave Danamo’s court without discovering his designs, he sent his faithful slave with it.

When every body was retired, he left his apartment as usual, and crossing the gardens alone, went into the boat, without knowing whether he could row or not; but what will not love teach us? he rowed as well as the most expert seaman, and got into the castle, where he was very much surpris’d to find Mana only, and she all in tears, in the princess’s chamber, ‘ What is the matter with

' with you, Mana (said the prince in haste) and where
 ' is my dear Irolita?' ' Alas! sir, (said Mana) she is not
 ' here, a troop of the queen's guards, and some woman,
 ' carried her away from this castle three or four hours
 ' ago.' Parcinus heard not the end of these words, but
 swooned away as soon as he understood the princess was
 gone. Mana took a great deal of pains to bring him
 to himself again, which was no sooner done, but falling
 suddenly into a passion, he drew a little dagger he wore
 in his girdle, and had pierced his heart, had not the wise
 Mana, holding his arm, and falling on her knees, said
 ' What, sir, will you forsake Irolita; live to deliver her
 ' from Danamo's rage. Alas! without you, where will
 ' she find succour against the cruelty of the fairy?' these
 words suspended the unhappy prince's despair: ' Alas!
 ' (replied he shedding tears, which all his courage could
 ' not restrain) where is my princess? yes, Mana, I will
 ' live to have the sad satisfaction of dying for her, and
 ' expiring in revenging her of her enemies.' After these
 words, Mana begged of him to leave that dismal place,
 to avoid fresh misfortunes. 'Go prince (said she) how
 ' know we but the fairy has somebody here to give her
 ' an account of what passes? take care of a life so dear
 ' to a princess you adore.' After this advice, the
 prince went away, and returned to his own apartment
 with all the grief so unhappy and tender a passion could
 inspire. He passed the night on a couch he threw him-
 self on when he went in, where day surprised him;
 which had appeared some hours, when he heard a noise
 at his chamber door. He ran with that eager impati-
 ence we generally express, when we expect news, where-
 in our hearts are so much concerned; and found that
 his people had brought him a man who wanted to speak
 with him in haste, and whom he knew to be one of Mana's
 relations, he gave Parcinus a letter, who went into his
 closet to hide the trouble it might give him; where he
 opened it, and found these words

Mana,

M A N A,

To the greatest Prince in the world.

BE assured, fir, our princess is in safety; if that expression may be allowed, while in the power of her enemy; she has asked Danamo for me, who has suffered me to be with her; there is a guard in the palace. Yesterday the queen sent for her into her closet, and ordered her proudly to look on the prince Brutus, as one that was to be her husband in a few days, and presented to her that prince, so unworthy of being your rival. The princess was so much afflicted, that she made her no answer, but by tears, which are not yet dried up. You, fir, must find out means, if possible, to assist her against such pressing Misfortunes.

At the bottom of the letter these words were written, blotted, and with a trembling hand.

HOW much I pity you my dear prince! your calamities are more grievous to me than my own: I spare your tenderness the recital of what I have endured since yesterday; why should I trouble the repose of your life? alas! without me you might have been happy.

What joy and grief did the prince feel? what kisses he gave this invaluable token of the divine Irolita's love? he was so much beside himself, that he had much ado to return a suitable answer; he thanked the prudent Mana, informed the princess of the assistance he expected from the fairy favourable, and said a thousand things on his grief and love: afterwards he gave the letter to Mana's relation and with it a present of fine jewels of an inestimable value, to recompense him for the pleasure he had done him. He was scarcely gone, when the queen and the princess Azira sent to know how the prince did. It was easy to know, by his looks, that he was not well; they pressed him to go to bed, which

which he agreed to, thinking he should be less constrained than if he went to the fairy.

After dinner the queen went herself to see him, and spoke to him of Irolita's marriage with the prince Brutus, as a thing resolved on. Parcinus, who had at last resolved to restrain himself to carry on his designs the better, seeming to approve of the fairy's intentions, and desired her only to stay till he had recovered, because he had a great mind to be at the solemnity. The fairy and Azira, who despaired at his sickness, and promised him what he asked; by which means he retarded the dismal nuptials of Irolita for some days. the conversation he had on the water with Azira forwarded the misfortune of the princess he loved so tenderly; for Azira had given the queen an account of his discourse and his compassion for Irolita. And the queen, who never delayed the execution of her will, sent that evening for Irolita, and resolved with Azira, to finish the marriage of that princess, and to hasten her departure before Parcinus had a more established authority? but in the mean time, before the expiration of the time, the faithful slave arrived. How great was Parcinus's joy, to find in the letter Favourable had wrote, marks of her compassion and friendship for him and Irolita! she sent him a little ring, composed of four different metals, gold, silver, brass, and iron: this ring had the power of securing them four times against the persecutions of the cruel Danamo: and Favourable assured the prince, that the wicked fairy could not pursue them oftner than the ring had power to save them. This good news restored the young prince to his health; he sent in all haste for Mana's relation and gave him a letter, that informed Irolita of the happy success they might flatter themselves withal.— They had no time to lose, the queen was for consummating prince Brutus's marriage in three days, and that same night Azira made a ball, and Irolita was to be there. Parcinus could not think of being negligent on that occasion: he dressed himself in a magnificent suit, and appeared a thousand times more bright than the day; but durst not speak to Irolita, except with his eyes,
which

which often met those of that fair princess. Irolita had on the noblest dress imaginable: the fairy had given her very fine jewels; and as she had but four days to stay in her palace, resolved to treat her as she ought to be.— Her beauty not used to be set off with such ornaments, seemed wonderful to all, and much more to the amorous Parcinius, who thought, by the joy that he saw in her bright eyes, she had received his letter.' The prince Brutus talked often with Irolita; but he appeared of so ill a mien unto the gold and jewels he was, loaded with, that he was not a rival worthy the young prince's jealousy. The ball was almost over, when Parcinius, transported with his love, desired with great ardour, the liberty of talking a moment with the princess. 'Cruel queen, and thou hateful Azira, (said he to himself) will you deprive me yet longer of the charming pleasure of telling the fair Irolita a thousand times how I adore her? why leave you not, you jealous witnesses of my happiness, the place, since love can only triumph in your absence;' he had hardly formed this wish, but the fairy finding herself a little out of order, called Azira, and went with her into the next room, whither prince Brutus followed them: Parcinius had then the ring on his finger the fairy Favourable had sent him. He thought to have preserved the succours given him for more pressing occasions, but violent love and prudence are seldom companions; the young prince thought, by the fairy's and Azira's departure, that the ring began to favour his love: he flew to the charming Irolita, and spoke to her of his passion in the most touching and eloquent expressions; when he perceived that he had made use of Favourable's charms silyly, but could not repent of an imprudence which gained him the pleasure of entertaining his dear Irolita: they resolved on their place and hour to put an end to their cruel slavery the next day. The fairy and Azira returned again some time after, Parcinius parted with no small regret from Irolita, and looking on his ring, perceived that the iron was mixed with the other metals, and saw very well that he had but three wishes to make, which he resolved to employ

employ better than the first for his princess? but trusted none with his departure, but his faithful slave. The next day he appeared to the queen very easy, and more pleasant than ordinary: he passed some compliments on the prince Brutus upon his marriage, and did it in a manner capable of removing all suspicions they might entertain of his passion. At two o' clock in the morning he went to the fairy's park, where he found his faithful slave, who, according to his master's orders had brought four of his horses. The prince waited a little, when the lovely Irolita came wearied, and leaning on Mana; for that young princess endured so much in the walk, that love alone, without Danamo's cruelties, and the ill qualities of prince Brutus, would not have been capable to have made her undertake it. It was then summer, the night was clear, and the moon and stars shined so bright, that it was as light as day. The prince made up in haste towards her, kissed her hand, for it was not a place to talk in, and helped her on her horse, for she rid wonderfully well, it being one of her amusements to take horse with her maids and ride into a little wood, some distance from the castle, which the fairy suffered her to take the air in. Afterwards Parcinus mounted his horse, and Mana and the slave theirs. The young prince drawing the brilliant sabre the fairy gave him, swore to the fair Irolita, to adore her all his life, and to die, if necessary, in her defence. After these words they went away, and the zephyrus seemed to correspond with them, or to take Irolita for Flora, by always attending them.

In the mean time, day discovered to Danamo a piece of news she little expected. The ladies who were about Irolita, were amazed that she slept so long; but obeying the prudent Mana, who lay in the same chamber with Irolita, from whence they went out at a little back-door, that led them into a court of the palace, very little frequented, by a door that was in Irolita's closet, and was nailed up; but in two or three nights they found out the means to open it. In short, the queen sent for Irolita: in obedience to the fairy, they knocked at the princess's chamber

chamber door, and nobody answered. But when the prince Brutus arrived, who came to conduct the princess to the queen, he was very much surpris'd: He broke open the door, and went in, and seeing the little door in the closet forced, he no longer doubted of the princess's flight. When the news was carried to the queen, she shak'd with anger, and order'd them to search every where for Irolita; but it was all in vain, nobody could give any account of her. The prince Brutus himself went to seek after her, and sent the fairy's guards with all speed on the roads he thought they might take. In the mean time, Azira observ'd that Parcinius did not appear in this general consternation: and jealousy opening her eyes, she sent in haste to him, and began to think that the prince had taken Irolita away. The fairy herself could not believe it: but on consulting her books, she found Azira's suspicion to be a matter of fact. In the mean time, the princess having learned that Parcinius was not in his apartment, nor the palace, sent to the castle where Irolita had been so long, to see if she could find any thing whereby she might justify or condemn the prince. The prudent Mana had taken care to leave nothing that might discover Irolita's correspondence with Parcinius, but Azira's scarf, which was found on the couch he swoon'd on, and had been untied while he was in that condition; and which neither the prince nor Mana, who were full of grief, perceiv'd. What did not the haughty Azira feel at the sight of that scarf? her love and pride suffer'd both alike; she afflict'd herself to excess, and sent all the servants of Irolita and the prince to prison. The ingratitude the queen thought Parcinius had shew'd her, push'd her natural rage to the last extremity. She would willingly have given one of her kingdoms to have been reveng'd on those two lovers, who at the same time were pursued on all sides: prince Brutus and his troop met with fresh horses every where by the fairy's order, whereas those of Parcinius's were tired, and answer'd not the impatience of their Master. At the further side of a Forest he overtook them: the first motion of the prince was to go and fight

fight that unworthy rival; he was riding up to him with his sabre drawn, when Irolita cried out, 'prince seek not an unprofitable danger, obey the orders of the fairy Favourable.' These words gave a check to Parcinus's rage, who to obey the princess and the fairy, wished the princess was in safety against the persecutions of the cruel queen. He had scarcely made his wish, but the earth opened between him and his rival; a little ugly man, magnificently dressed, appeared, and made a sign to him to follow him. The descent was easy on their side, he went down on horseback, with Irolita and Manz, and the slave, and the earth closed. Brutus, surpris'd at so extraordinary an event, went in haste to give Danamo an account of it; and in the mean time our young lovers followed the little man through a dark road, that led to a large palace, lighted with flambeaux and lamps. They alighted from off their horses, went into a prodigious large hall, supported by shining pillars of earth, covered with ornaments of gold; a little man loaded with jewels, sat on a throne of gold at the bottom of the hall, with a great number of people like himself about him, who conducted the prince to that place who, as soon as he appeared with the charming Irolita, the little man arose from his throne, and said to him, 'Come, prince, the great fairy Favourable, who has been a long time one of my friends, hath desired me to secure you against the cruelties of Danamo. I am king of the Gnomes, you and the princess are welcome to my palace.' Parcinus thanked him for his assistance. The king and all his subjects were enchanted at the beauty of Irolita; they took her for a star that came to brighten their abode, and served up a magnificent entertainment. The king of the Gnomes paid them all manner of respect, in harmonious concert, but somewhat wild was the diversion of the night, where they sung the charms of Irolita, and repeated several times these verses;

*What star is this that thus our sight invades,
And darts such beams on these our gloomy shades?
Which, whlie its lustre fondly we admire,
Dazzles our eyes, and sets our hearts on fire.*

After the musick was done, they led the prince and princess, each into a magnificent room, and Mana and the faithful slave followed them. The next day they shewed them the king's palace, who disposed of all the riches of the earth; nothing could be added to that treasure, which was a confused mass of fine things unformed. The prince and princess remained eight days in this subterraneous abode; Favourable had ordered the king of the Gnomes, during that time, to make the princess and her lover gallant and magnificent entertainments. The night before their departure, the king, to immortalize the memory of their residence in his empire, had their two statues erected in gold on each side his throne, on pedestals of white marble, with these words writ in letters of diamonds on the pedestal of the princess's statue:

*We desire no more the sight of the sun;
We have seen this prince,
Who is brighter and more beautiful.*

And on the pedestal of the princess's statue

*To the immortal honour
Of the goddess of beauty,
Who descended here,
Under the name of Irolita.*

The ninth day the prince had very fine horses given him, whose trappings where of gold, laid over with diamonds, and left, with his small troop, the dark abode of the Gnomes, after paying their acknowledgments to their king, and found himself in the same place where prince Brutus attacked him? and looking on his ring, perceived only the Silver and brass. He pursued his way with the charming, Irolita, and hastened to arrive at the habitation of the fairy Favourable, where they were to be in safety: when all on a sudden coming out of a vale, they met a troop of Danamo's guards, who where still in search after them; and were just ready to fall on them; when the prince wished, and presently there

there appeared a great space of water between them and the fairy troops. A beautiful nymph half naked, rose up in the middle of the water, in a boat of rushes, laced together, and making towards the shore, desired the prince and his beautiful mistress to come into it; who, with Mana and the slave, left their horses in the field, and went into the boat, which sunk under water, and made the guards think they chose rather to drown themselves, than fall into their hands. Immediately they found themselves in a palace, the walls of which were great drops of water, which falling continually, made halls, chambers, closets, and encompassed gardens, where a thousand spoutings of water, of odd Figures, formed the design of parterres. None but Nuids could live in this palace, so fine and singular as it was; therefore to afford the prince and the fair Irolita a more solid habitation, the Nuid that conducted them, carried them into grottos of shell-work, composed of coral, pearls, and all the riches of the sea. Their beds were of moss, a hundred dolphins guarded Irolita's grot, and twenty whales the prince's. The Nuids admired at their return, the beauty of Irolita? and moreover, a Triton grew jealous of the prince's looks and care: they gave them in the prince's grotto, a collation of fine fruits; twelve Syrons came to charm, by their sweet voices, the trouble of the prince and Irolita, and sung the following song;

*Wherever love our hearts conveys,
He makes us happy different ways:
Perfect lovers, triumph in your chains,
And let your passions still surmount your pains.*

At night there was an entertainment, consisting wholly of fish, of an extraordinary size and exquisite taste. — After this repast, the Nuids danced in habits of fish scales of different colours, which was very fine; bodies of Tritons, with instruments unknown to men, composed a symphony, which was odd, but new and very agreeable. Parcinus and the fair Irolita were four days in this empire

empire; the fifth day the Nuids came in crowds to conduct the prince and princess; which two lovers went into a Boat of one entire shell, and the Nuids half out of the water, accompanied them to the river-side, where Parcinus found his horses again, and set forward with speed; when looking on his ring, he perceived only the brass; but they were then nigh Favourable's palace. They travelled three days, when on the fourth, at sun-rising, they perceived men in arms, who, when they came near, appeared to be the prince Brutus and his troop, whom Danamo had sent again to pursue them, with orders not to leave them, if they found them, nor to stir off the spot, where any thing extraordinary should fall out; and above all, to endeavour to engage the prince to fight. Danamo knew very well, after what Brutus had told her, that a fairy protected the prince and princess; but her knowledge was so great, that she despaired not of overcoming them by more powerful charms. Prince Brutus overjoyed to see the prince and Irolita again, whom he sought after with so much diligence, rid with his sword in his hand up to Parcinus, to endeavour to fight him, according to Danamo's orders. The young prince drew his sword with so fierce an air, that Brutus repented more than once of his undertaking; but Parcinus perceiving Irolita all in tears, moved with compassion at that sight made his fourth wish, and presently their arose a great fire up to the skies, which separated Parcinus from his enemy. This fire made prince Brutus and his troop fall back. The young prince and Irolita, who were always attended by the faithful slave and Mana, found themselves in a palace, the sight of which, being all fire, at first frightened Irolita; but she was soon encouraged, when she perceived she felt no greater heat than that of the sun, and that this fire had only the flaming quality, and not those others, which render it insupportable. A great many young and handsome persons, richly cloathed. came from whence the flames seemed to rise, to receive the princess and her lover. One of them, whom they judged to be the queen of that place, by the respects paid to her, said, 'Come, charming

‘ charming princefs, and you lovely Parcinus. you are
 ‘ in the kingdom of Salamanders: I am the queen, and
 ‘ with pleasure am charged by Favourable to conceal
 ‘ you feven days in my palace: I wifh only your abode
 ‘ here was to be long. r.’ After thefe words ſhe carried
 them into a large apartment all on fire, like the reſt
 of the palace, and which gave as great a light as the fun.
 That night they ſupped with the queen, and had a no-
 ble entertainment: after it was over, they went on a
 terras, to fee an artificial fire of wonderful beauty,
 and a very ſingular deſign, which was prepared in a
 great court before the Salamander’s palace. Twelve
 loves were on pillars of marble, of different colours: fix
 of them ſeemed ready to draw their bows, and the fix
 others held out a great plate, whereon theſe words were
 written in charecters of fire:

*Where'er fair Irolite appears,
 A glorious conqueſt there ſhe bears:
 Our raging flames and hotteſt fire,
 Fall ſhort of what her eyes inſpire
 So great's the torment of deſire.*

The young Irolita bluſhed at her own glory, and
 Parcinus was overjoyed that ſhe was thought as handſome
 as ſhe appeared to him. In the mean time the cupids
 drew their arrows of fire, which croſſing in the air, formed
 in a thouſand places the cypher and name of Irolita,
 and carried it up to the heavens. The ſeven days they
 ſtayed in this palace where ſpent in pleaſures and diver-
 ſions. Parcinus obſerved, that all the Salamanders had
 a great deal of ſpirit, and a charming vivacity, were all
 gallant and amorous, and that the queen herſelf was not
 exempt from that paſſion, ſince ſhe was in love with a
 young Salamander of extraordinary beauty. The
 eighth day they left with regret an abode ſo agreeable to
 their tenderneſs, and found themſelves in a fine field
 where Parcinus looking on his ring, found on the four
 metals mixed together, theſe words engraved:

You wiſhed too ſoon.

D

Theſe

These words afflicted the prince and young princess, but they were so nigh Favourable's habitation, that they hoped to reach it that day. This thought suspended their grief, they went forwards, calling on fortune and love, too often deceitful guides. The prince Brutus followed the fairy's orders, never stirred from the place where the fire separated them, but lay encamped behind a wood, when his centinals, who kept continual watch, informed him that the prince and princess appeared on the plain again. He mounted his troop, and came up by night with the unfortunate prince and divine Irolita. Parcinus was not in the least dismayed at the great number of those who attacked him all at once: he flew on them with a courage that terrified them: 'I fulfil my promise, fair Irolita (said he, drawing his sabre) I will dye for you, or deliver you from your enemies.' After these words, he struck the first he met, and felled him at his feet: but, O grief unexpected! that sabre which he had of the fairy, broke into a thousand pieces. It was what the fairy expected from the combat with the young prince; for when she gave any arms, she charmed them in such a manner, that when they were made use of against herself, they should break at the first blow into a thousand pieces. Parcinus thus disarmed, could not long resist the numbers that surrounded him: took him, loaded him with chains, and made the young Irolita undergo the same fate. O! Fairy Favourable (cried the prince melancholy) abandon me to all the rage of Danamo, but save the fair Irolita.' You have disobeyed the fairy (answered a young man of surprising beauty, who appeared in the air) you must endure the punishment; if you had not been so prodigal of Favourable's assistance, we had preserved you against the cruelties of Danamo. The whole kingdom of the Sylphs are vexed that they had not the glory of rendering so charming a prince, and so beautiful a princess, happy.' After this he disappeared. Parcinus groaned at his imprudence, he appeared insensible of his own misfortunes, but was cruelly agitated with those of Irolita: and the regret of having contributed

ted to them, had made him to die away for grief, if fate had not prepared more cruel torments for him to undergo. The young Irolita shewed a courage worthy her illustrious blood; and the merciless Brutus, far from relenting at so moving a sight, redoubled their calamities, which he was partly the cause of. He separated them, and deprived them of the pleasure of complaining to each other without redress. After a cruel journey, they arrived at the wicked fairy's, who expressed a malign joy to see the prince and young princess in a condition so worthy of creating pity in any other's breast but her's; however, Azira had some for Parcinus, but durst not shew it before the fairy: 'I will (said that cruel queen, addressing herself to the young prince) have the pleasure of revenging myself on thy ingratitude; go, instead of ascending the throne my bounty designed you, to the prison of the sea, where I will put an end to thy miserable life, by the most horrible punishments.' 'I chuse rather the most wretched prison (replied the prince, looking on her fiercely) than the favours of so unjust a queen.' Which words provoked her much more, who expected to have seen him prostrate at her feet. She made him be carried away to the appointed prison: Irolita cried on seeing him go; Azira could not refrain her sighs; and all the court groaned secretly at so cruel an order. For the fair Irolita, the queen sent her to the castle where she had been kept so long, had her carefully guarded, and used her as inhumanly as she was capable of.

The prince's prison was in a tower in the midst of the sea, built on a small desert isle: there he was kept loaded with irons, and underwent all manner of hardships. What a place was this for a prince fit to rule the whole world? the remembrance of Irolita was his sole employ; he called on Favourable only to her assistance, and wished a thousand times to die, to expiate the crime he had committed: his faithful slave was put into the same prison, but had not the satisfaction of serving his illustrious master, who had none but rude soldiers about him, devoted to the fairy; who, though obedient to her,

could not but respect the unhappy prince. His youth, beauty, and above all, his courage, touched them with an admiration that made them look on him as a man superior to all others. The prudent Mana was treated in the castle with Irolita, in the same manner as the faithful slave. None but Danamo's creatures came nigh the princess, who, by her order, excited in her a fresh grief every moment, by telling her what the prince suffered. The calamities of Parcinus made the princess sometimes forget the remembrance of her own, and renewed her tears in a place where she had so often heard that charming prince swear to her eternal fidelity :
 ' Alas ! (said she to herself, why was you so constant, my dear prince ; indeed, your infidelity would have cost me my life, but what signified that ? you would after that, have been happy. Danamo, who took some time to prepare a charm of extraordinary force, sent Irolita, in the morning, two lamps ; one of Gold, the other of crystal ; the golden one was lighted, Danamo ordered her not to let one of these two lamps go out, but told her, ' She might keep which she pleased lighted.' Irolita answered, with her natural sweetness, she should obey her, without searching into the signification of it. She carried the two lamps carefully into her closet, and as the golden one was lighted, she put it not out all that day, and lighted the other the next day, and so continued to obey the fairy. She had kept these lamps fifteen days, when her health began to diminish, which she thought might be occasioned by her grief ? but when they told her Parcinus was very ill, her piercing grief, and violent oppression, raised pity in all the women about her. One night, when they were all a sleep, one of them went softly to the princess, and seeing the crystal lamp burning : ' What is it you do, great princess ! (said she to her) put out that fatal light, your health depends upon it, preserve a life so valuable, from the cruelties of Danamo.' Alas (replied the melancholy Irolita, in a languishing air) she had made it so miserable, that it is a kind of a favour in the fairy to afford me the means of putting an end to it :
 but

' but, (continued she, with an emotion that brought a
 ' colour in her face) whose life does that golden lamp
 ' prevail over ?' 'Parcinus's (replied Danamo's confi-
 ' dent, who spoke to the princess by her order ; for
 that wicked fairy had a mind to torment her, by letting
 her know how cruel her fate was. At this news the
 grief of having herself taken care to put an end to
 Parcinus's days, made her lay some time insensible ;
 but when she came to herself, and in recovering her
 senses, resumed her sorrows. ' Odious fairy (said she,
 ' when she had power to speak) barbarous fairy ! is
 ' not my death sufficient to appease thy rage ? but to
 ' be more cruel thou must destroy, by my hands, a
 ' prince so dear to me, who is deserving of the tender-
 ' est and most perfect love ? but death, a thousand times
 ' more kind than thou, will shortly deliver me from
 ' all the mischiefs thy rage invents, against a passion
 ' so violent and faithful. The young princess cried
 continually over the fatal lamp, on which Parcinus's
 life depended, and lighted none but her own, which she
 saw burn with joy, as a sacrifice she offered up to her
 love and lover. All this time that unhappy prince was
 tormented with punishments his courage could not
 support : the fairy made the soldiers, who guarded him,
 and feigned to be sensible of that illustrious prince's sor-
 rows, tell him, ' That Irolita had consented to marry
 ' the prince Brutus in a few days after he was put
 ' into prison, and that the princess seemed very well
 ' content with her marriage, at all the feasts that were
 ' made to celebrate it ; and in short, that she was gone
 ' away with her husband.' This was a misfortune the
 prince did not expect, and was the only one that could
 be greater than his constancy. ' What, my dear, Irolita,
 ' are you unfaithful to me (said the sad prince) to be
 ' prince Brutus's ? you have only bewailed my misfor-
 ' tunes, and thought of putting an end to those my ten-
 ' derness caused you : but live happy ungreatful Iroli-
 ' ta, I adore you, inconstant as you are, and will die for
 ' my love, though not permitted the honour of dying
 ' for my princess.' Whilst the unfortunate Parcinus

was thus afflicting himself, and the tender Irolita was waisting her life to prolong her lover's, Danamo was affected with Azira's despair, who died away with grief at the hardships of Parcinus. In short, the cruel fairy perceiving, that to save her daughter's life, she must pardon the prince, suffered her to go and see him, and to promise him all he should name, if he would marry her; and at the same time resolved to have put Irolita to death, as soon as the prince had accepted the propositions. The hopes of seeing Parcinus again; gave the melancholy Azira new life; the queen bid her send to Irolita for the lamp, that she might be shure it did not burn; which order seemed more cruel than all the rest to the sorrowful Irolita. How great was her uneasiness for the life of Parcinus? 'Be not so concerned for the life of that prince, (said the women to her, who were about her) he is going to marry the princess Azira, and it is she who, careful of his life, sends for the lamp.' The torment of jealousy, which was wanting among all her misfortunes, never till after these words had any share in her calamities. Nevertheless Azira went to see the prince, and offered herself and kingdoms to him, pretending to be ignorant that he had heard of Irolita's marriage with Brutus; by which example she would have convinced him, he had carried his constancy too far. Parcinus, to whom nothing was valuable but his beloved Irolita, preferred his prison and sufferings before liberty and empire. Azira despaired at his refusal, and her grief rendered her equally unhappy with that prince.

During this time the fairy Favourable, who till then had boasted of the insensibility of her heart, was not able to resist the charms of a young prince in her court, who was in love with her; and this fairy could not have resolved to listen to him, had not the pride of her soul been overcome by this violence of her passion. In short, she yielded to the desire of letting him know how he triumphed. The pleasure of speaking to what we love, seemed then so charming to her, and so worthy of being desired, that approving what she had blamed

so much, she came in haste to the Assistance of Parcinus and the fair Irolita.

Had she staid a little longer, it would have been too late, the fatal lamp of Irolita had but six days to burn, and the grief of the unhappy Parcinus had almost put an end to his days. Favourable arrived at Danamo's palace, and as her power was superior to hers, she would be obeyed in spite of the wicked fairy. The prince was fetched out of his prison, from whence he would not stir, till he was assured by Favourable, that the fair Irolita might still be his. He appeared for all his paleness, as handsome as the day, and went with the fairy Favourable to the princess's castle, whose lamp cast but a glimmering light. The dying Irolita would not consent to have it put out, till she was assured of the fidelity of her happy lover. No words or expressions are lively and tender enough, to give an idea of their joy to see each other again, Favourable made them instantly resume their former charms, and endowed them with a long life and constant happiness; but for their tenderness she had nought to add to that. Danamo, outrageous to see her authority defeated, killed herself, leaving the fate of Azira and Brutus entirely to Irolita, who took no other revenge than marrying them both together. Parcinus was generous as constant, accepted only of his father's kingdom, and left those of Danamo's to Azira. The nuptials of the prince and divine Irolita, were solemnized with great magnificence; and after having paid their acknowledgements to Favourable, and rewarded the slave, and prudent Mana, they set out for their kingdom; where the prince and lovely Irolita enjoyed the happiness of a passion, as tender and constant in their prosperity, as it was violent and faithful in their adversity.

THE
S T O R Y
OF THE
PRINCESS ROSETTA.

UPON a time, there was a king and queen of a certain country, who had two fine boys, whom the queen took such care to have well bred, that they improved greatly. Her majesty was never brought to bed, but she sent to invite the fairies to her labour, and begged them to tell her her child's fortune as soon as it was born.

She became with child again, and was delivered of a daughter, so very fair, that every one who saw her was in love with her. The queen commanded the fairies to be very well treated; and when they were almost ready to take their leaves of her, she desired them not to forget their good custom, but to tell her what should happen to Rosetta (so the infant princess was called.) The fairies told her, they had left their scheme book at home, and would come another time to satisfy her.— Ah, says the queen, this does not prophesy good: you are not willing to trouble me with an unwelcome prediction; 'speak freely I beg it of you; let me know 'the worst of her fate; hide nothing from me,' They all desired to be excused; and the more backward they were to tell her fortune, the more eager the queen was to know. At last the chief of them said, 'We are afraid, madam Rosetta will be the cause of a very great misfortune to her brothers, and that they will die for her somehow or other. 'This is all that we can foresee 'of the fair princess, and we are very sorry we have 'no better information to give you.' The fairies went away, and left the queen so melancholy, that the king took notice of it, and demanded the reason. She answered, 'That sitting too near the fire, she happened
to

‘ to burn all the flax on her spindle.’ ‘ Is that all (quoth the king :) So he goes up into the garret, and fetched her more flax than she could spin in an hundred years.

The queen continued melancholy, and the king being inquisitive to know the cause of it, she replied, ‘ That walking near the river side, she let one of her green satin slippers fall into the water. ‘ Is that all, (quoth the king.) He presently set all the shoe-makers in the kingdom to work, and brought her ten thousand pair of green satin slippers to make up the matter. Still she continued as melancholy as ever. He asked her the cause of it again. She told him, ‘ That eating one day with too hasty an appetite, she chanced to swallow her wedding ring, which she had upon her finger.’ The king knowing she did not speak truth then, (for he had locked up the ring) said to her, ‘ My dear wife, this cannot be true, for I have your ring safe under lock and key;’ and he immediately went and fetched it. The queen finding she was caught in an untruth, one of the foulest crimes in the world, to vindicate herself, confessed what the fairies had foretold of little Rosetta, and desired him, if he could think of any means to prevent it, to let her know it. The king was mightily concerned, and said to the queen, he knew no way of preventing the destruction of their two sons, but to kill the child while she was in her swaddling clothes. His wife wished she might die herself first, and bid him contrive some other means to save their two boys, for she would never consent to that.

The king and queen thinking of nothing else, studied so many ways, that in the end they thought they had found out one. The queen was informed that there was an old hermit in a wood near the city, whose dwelling was in a hollow tree, and that he was a wonderful person in matters of counsel. She therefore resolved to go and consult him, the fairies not having told the remedy when they predicted the evil. She rose one morning early, mounted on a little white mule shod with gold; and was attended by two of her maids of honour on horse-back, each upon a fine horse. When the queen

and her maids arrived at the entrance of the wood, they alighted, and walked on foot to the place where the old hermit lived in his tree. The solitaire did not like to see women; but when he saw it was the queen, he cried, 'you are welcome, what would you have of me?' She then related what the fairies had foretold her of Rosetta; and asked his advice in the case. He bade her shut the prince's up in a tower, and never let her come out of it. The queen thanked him, gave him alms, and returned to tell the king her adventure.

His majesty approving of the hermit's counsel, ordered a large tower to be built, and enclosed his daughter in it. There she lived: and that she might not be weary of so retired a life, the king, queen, and her two brothers, visited her every day. The eldest of them was called the great prince, and the youngest the little prince, for distinction sake. They loved their sister most dearly, for she was one of the best and most beautiful creatures in the world, and the least glance of hers was worth an hundred pounds. When she was fifteen years old, the great prince said to the king, 'Papa, they say that my sister is big enough to be married: shall not we go soon to her wedding?' the little prince spoke to the same effect to the queen; and their majesties amused them with evasive answers, without taking notice of the marriage.

At last the king and queen fell very ill, and died both in one day. Dismal was the state of the court; every one was in tears! nothing was to be seen but black coats and gowns, and nothing to be heard but tolling of bells. Rosetta above all wanted to be comforted, for the loss of so good a mother.

When the king and queen were buried, the marshals and dukes of the kingdom conducted the great prince to a throne of gold and diamonds, on which he ascended, had a royal crown put upon his head, and was arrayed in robes of purple velvet, embroidered with a sun and stars. Then the whole court shouted, 'Long live the king!' and their sorrow for their late majesties deaths was forgot in their joy for his present majesty's succession.

The

The king and his brother conferring together, spoke to this purpose: 'Now the power is in our own hands, let us release our sister out of the tower, wherein she has already been too long shut up.' It was no sooner said than done. They had only a garden to cross, and they came to the tower, which was built in one corner of it, as high as it could be made; for the late king and queen resolved she should stay there all her life time.—Rosetta was then embroidering a robe in a frame which stood before her; but as soon as she saw her brothers, she rose, and taking the king by the hand, addressed herself to him in these words: 'good morrow, sir; you are now king, and I am now your poor obedient servant; I beg you to let me come out of this tower, for I am quite tired with staying here.' She then burst out into a flood of tears. The king embraced her, bade her not weep, for he came there on purpose to fetch her thence, and carry her to a fine palace. The prince's pockets were full of sweet-meats, which he gave to Rosetta. 'Come (says he) let us leave this filthy tower: do not afflict thyself, the king will get thee a husband in a little while.'

When Rosetta saw the gardens full of flowers, fruits, and fountains, she was so ravished that she could not say a word, for she had never seen any thing like it before. She gazed about her as if she had been wild; sometimes walked, and sometimes stopped: she gathered the fruits of the trees, the flowers in the borders. Fretillion, her little dog, who was as green as a parrot, and had but one ear, danced all the way before her, and jumped and capered about as if he was as glad as his mistress that they were got out into the fresh air.

The company were well pleased with Fretillion's frisking and leaping over the walks: when all of a sudden he ran to a little wood. The princess followed her dog, and never was woman more astonished than she was at the sight of a huge peacock, that strutted as she approached him, and spread out his tail. She was so charmed with him, and thought him so very fine, that she could not take her eyes off of him. The king and

prince followed her, asked what she was so taken with? she shewed them the peacock, and asked what it was. — They told her it was a bird which they sometimes eat of. ‘How (said she) are you so cruel to kill and eat so lovely a bird? I here protest to you, that I will never marry with any one but the King of the Peacocks, and when I am queen, I will hinder your eating them.’ The king was surpris’d at this beyond measure: ‘But, sister, (replied he) where will you find the King of the Peacocks?’ Where you please (quoth the princess,) but I never marry any one else.’

Upon this the two brothers conducted her to their palace, whither the peacock was brought, and carried to her bed-chamber, for she was mightily enamour’d of him. All the ladies who had not seen Rosetta, came to wait upon her, and made their court; when some brought her comfits, others sugar-plumbs, others robes of cloth of gold, others ribbons, others toys, others embroidered shoes, adorned with pearls and diamonds: every body gave her something to welcome her abroad; and she was so very obliging, courteous, and thankful for what she had received at the hands of her visitants, that they all of them went away very well satisfied. While she was taken up with a great deal of company, the king and the prince endeavoured to find out the King of the Peacocks, if there was any such monarch in the world. They thought it convenient to have their sister’s picture drawn, to shew to the prince with the broad tail, if they should happen to light upon him: and it was indeed drawn so beautifully, that it wanted speech only to be as lovely as the original. When that was done, the two brothers told the princess, that since she would marry nobody but the King of the Peacocks, they would go together all over the world in search of him. If we find him, we will bring him to you with joy; in the mean time do you take care of our kingdom till we return.

Rosetta thanked them for the trouble they took for her sake, and assured them she would carefully govern the kingdom in their absence; during which all her delight

light would he in the lovely Peacock in her chamber, and the tricks of the little Fretillion. So they bade each other adieu, not without some showers of tears at parting.

As they said, they did : the king and prince rambled up and down, asking every where for the King of the Peacocks : nobody knew him. They went so far, so very far, that nobody ever went farther.

They arrived at the kingdom of Locusts, and never saw the like before, there was such buzzing, that his majesty was afraid of losing his hearing. He asked one of them, who looked to be a locust of parts, if he could tell where he might find the King of the Peacocks?—
‘ Sir, (replied the insect) his kingdom is thirty thousand leagues off : you have gone out of your way to it.’
‘ How do you know that ? (says the king) Oh, sir, (quoth the Locust) we know you very well, for we come every year to spend two or three months in your gardens.’ Immediately the king and his brother became acquainted with the Locust, and many civil things passed between them. They dined together, and his majesty and highness took delight in viewing the curiosities of the country, where the least leaf on a tree was worth a guinea. When they had been kindly treated by the host, they proceeded on their journey ; and knowing the way to the place they were bound to, it was not long before they arrived at it. The trees were all loaded with Peacocks, and the number of them so great, that their chuckling might be heard two leagues off. Says the king to his brother, ‘ If the King of the Peacocks should be a Peacock himself, how can our sister pretend to have him for a husband ? we should be made to consent to it ; and what a fine alliance will she engage us in ! besides, what an honour it will be to us to have a little Pea chicken for our nephew !’ The prince was as much concerned about it as the king. ‘ It is a wretched fancy of her’s (quoth he) who could put it into her head, that there was such a creature upon the earth as the King of the Peacocks?’ When they arrived at the capital city they saw that it was full of men and women,
but

but that their clothes were all made of Peacocks feathers which they met with wherever they came. They found the king taking the air in a rich little coach of gold and diamonds. This monarch was so handsome, that the king and prince were charmed with him. His hair was fair, curled and long; his complexion fair also; and on his head he wore a crown made of a peacock's tail. When he espied them, he imagined by their dress that they were strangers; and to inform himself concerning them, stopped his coach, and ordered them to be called to him.

The king and prince approached him, made him a very low bow, saying, 'Sir, we are come from a far country, to shew to you a lovely picture:' and then pulled out that of their sister, which they carried in a case.—When the King of the Peacocks saw it, 'I do not believe (said he) 'there is so beautiful a lady in the universe.' The king answered, 'She is a hundred times handsomer than her picture. 'You banter me (quoth the monarch of the fine tailed nation.)' The prince then took his brother's part. 'Sir (said he) my brother is a king as well as yourself; he is called the king, and I am called the prince; our sister, whose picture you see here, is named Rosetta. We are come to ask you if you will marry her: she is handsome and discreet, and we will give you with her a bushel of crowns of gold. 'Say you so (quoth the King of the Peacocks) 'I will marry her with all my heart: but be you shure that she is as handsome as her picture, for otherwise you shall be both put to death.' Agreed (replied Rosetta's two brothers.) 'Then here (says the king to the captain of his guards) put these two persons into prison; they shall remain there till the princess arrives. The princes obeyed, without making any difficulty of it, for they knew Rosetta was handsomer than her portrait.

During their confinement they were treated to a wonder: the king came often to visit them, and hung Rosetta's picture up in his palace, being so enamoured with it, that he could not sleep night nor day, the image

of the fair lady running always in his mind. The king and the prince wrote from their prison to the princess by the post, to come away with all speed, for the King of the Peacocks expected her. They did not let her know they were prisoners, for fear of troubling her too much.

When she received the letter, she was so overjoyed she could hardly contain herself. She told every body she met, the King of the Peacocks was found, and she was to marry him. Bonfires were presently lighted through all the city: the cannon discharged; the choicest viands and sweet-meats were devoured by cart loads; and the princess for three days kept open house, treating all her guests with the richest wines. After which she bestowed her fine babies on her best friends, and, committing the government to the oldest and wisest persons of the city, recommending to them to have a care of the state, to spend nothing, but to save all they could for the king; packed up her baggage, and departed, leaving her Peacock behind her, having given the regents a strict charge to be careful of him. Her dog Fretrillion, her nurse, and foster-sister, were the only companions of her voyage, for she went by sea. She carried with her the bushel of crowns of gold that were to be her portion, and change of suits sufficient to last her ten years, at two suits a day. She did nothing but sing and dance: and her nurse was always inquiring of the master of the vessel, whether they were not come near the kingdom of the Peacocks? he still answered, 'No, no.' She asked him still, 'Are we now come?' 'Have a little patience good woman (quoth the tar) we shall arrive in good time.' 'Are we come now?' (says the nurse again.) 'Yes, you are come (replied the mariner.)' And when he had said it, she drew up near him, seated herself down by him, and spoke to him thus: 'It is now in thy power to make thyself as rich as thou pleasest; do as I would have thee, and thou shalt have as much money as thou wilt.' He answered, 'What must I do for it?' 'I will give thee thy pocket full of guineas (quoth she,)' 'Will you so, says the mariner, I desire no better sport

‘ sport ; let us finger them as soon as you please’, The nurse went on, ‘ What I require of you in return is, that this night, when the princess is a sleep, thou wilt help me to throw her into the sea ; when she is drowned, I will dress my daughter up in her cloaths, and we will carry her to the King of the Peacocks, who will marry her ; and for thy reward thou shalt have a diamond bracelet.

The mariner was surpris'd at the nurse's cruel proposal. ‘ It is a pity (said he) to drown such a fair princess.’ But the wicked woman cured his scruples with a bottle or two of wine, and he agreed to serve her.

About midnight, the princess being fast a sleep, with her little dog Fretrillion by her, the nurse went to the mariner, and made him enter Rosetta's cabin : They took her up, bed and all, and threw her into the sea, her foster-sister lending her helping hand. The princess did not wake with the stir they made, nor with the blow of the fall; but what was happy for her, the feathers of her bed were phoenix's, which are very rare, and have that good quality, they never sink, so Rosetta swam upon her bed as safely, and as much at her ease, as if she had been in the vessel. The water by degrees however wetted the matting first, and then the bed and blankets. The princess feeling the wet about her, was at first a little alarmed, but was quickly recovered.

Her turning herself from one side to the other waked Fretrillion, who had an excellent nose, and smelt the soles and flounders that were near him : He fell a barking, so that it waked all the other fish, who began to swim about them. The great fish ran their heads against the princess's bed, which being fastened to nothing, was tossed to and fro like a shuttle-cock. My lady wondered what was the matter. ‘ How, (says she) does our vessel dance so upon the water ? I never lay so uneasy in my life as I have done to night.’ Fretrillion in the mean while barked at the fish so loudly, that the nurse and mariner heard him. ‘ That rogue of a dog (said she) is, I warrant ye, drinking our health with his mistress; let us not mind them, but make
to

‘to port as fast as we can:’ And it was not long before they arrived at the King of the Peacock’s capital.

The monarch ordered a hundred coaches, drawn by all sorts of rare beasts to meet the princess at the sea side. Some were drawn by lions, some by bears, some by stags, wolves, horses, oxen, asses, eagles, and peacocks. The coach which Rosetta was to ride in, was drawn by six blue monkeys, who capered and danced, and played a thousand pretty tricks: Their harness was made of crimson velvet, with plates of gold. The king commanded sixty young virgins to wait upon her at her arrival.— They were dressed in all sorts of colours; and silver and gold were the least things about them.

The nurse had taken a great deal of pains to set off her daughter; she dressed her head with Rosetta’s diamonds, and clothed her in her finest robes. But with all her finery she was exceeding ugly: Her hair was black and greasy; her eyes squinted; she was hump-backed, and of such an ill humour, that she was always a scolding.

When the King of the Peacock’s servant saw her come out of the vessel, they were struck dumb with astonishment. ‘Who is here (quoth she) What, are you all fast a sleep? Go, go, ye rascals, fetch me something to eat, or I will have you all hanged.’ They were startled at her threats, and said one to another, ‘What filthy beast is come amongst us; she is as ill natured as she is ugly: Our king is finely helped up in a wife: there was no need of sending to the end of the world for such a lady as this is.’ The pretended princess continued her airs, and for little or nothing fell foul upon her attendants with her tongue and fist.

Her equipage being very great, she could not go fast along. She lolled in her coach like a queen; but the peacocks, who had posted themselves on the trees thereabouts, to salute her, as she passed by, intending to welcome her with shouts of ‘Long live the fair queen Rosetta,’ when they saw this fair creature, cried out, ‘Fie, fie, how ugly she is!’ The jade, enraged at them bid her guards kill those rascally peacocks; dare they affront and rail at me! the peacocks laughed at her and flew away.

The rogue of a mariner, who saw what passed, whispered the nurse, 'Mother we are in a sorry condition: your daughter should have been a little handsomer.' She replied, 'Hold your tongue, you blockhead, or you will spoil all.'

The king receiving intimation that the princess approached; 'Well said he to his courtiers, have the two brothers told me truth? is she handsomer than her picture.' They answered, 'It were to be wished, sir, that she would prove as handsome.' 'I desire no more, says the king; let us go and see what she is:' for by this time the mock princess and her train were arrived in the great court in the palace, and the noise was such, that he could not distinguish what they said, only he could hear some of the crowd that were nearest to him cry, 'Out upon her, how ugly she is!' The king thought they spoke it of some dwarf or monkey that she had brought along with her, for he could not imagine that it was she herself they said this of.

Rosetta's picture was carried before the king at the end of a long staff, and his majesty followed it gravely with his barons, his peacocks, and the ambassadors of the several kingdoms resident in his court. The king was very impatient to see his dear Rosetta; but when he saw her ladyship, it was feared he would drop down dead in the place: He fell in the most terrible passion that ever was seen; tore his garments, and would not come near her, being afraid of her as if she had been a fiend, and not a human creature.

'Have these two villains, whom I have in prison (said he) had the impudence to make a jest of me and propose a baboon to me for a wife? they shall die; go take that gipsy, her nurse, and he that brought them, thr w them into the dungeon in my great tower; I will make examples of them all.'

In the mean time, the king and his brother, who were prisoners, hearing their sister was arrived, and was making her public entry, had dressed themselves as fine as they could to receive her: but, instead of opening their prison doors to set them at liberty, the gaoler came with

twenty soldiers, and carried them down into a dark dungeon, which was full of nastiness and vermin, and where they stood up to their necks in water. Nothing can be imagined more dreadful to persons of their rank. 'Alas (said they to each other) it is an unhappy wedding day to us!' What could be the cause of their sufferings they could not conceive, only they saw their death was resolved on, and were both in a most deplorable state of despair. Three days past over their heads, and they heard no tidings of any thing. At last the King of the Peacocks came, and railed at them thro' a hole. You have usurped the title of king and prince to deceive me, and impose your sister on me; but you are all a company of rascals, who do not deserve the water you drink: I shall take a course with you: your judges are preparing for your trial, and the rope is making that is to hang you. 'King of the Peacocks, (replied the king in a rage) do not make so much haste, you may repent it one time or other: I am a king as well as yourself; I have a large kingdom royal robes, crowns and money in good store. You are merry sure, when you talk of hanging us: have we stolen any thing from you?

When the king heard him speak with so much resolution, he could not tell what to do: he had almost a mind to release them, and send them home with their sister; but one of his favourites (a true court flatterer) confirmed him in his design to have them tied up; otherwise, he said, every body would scorn him, to be tricked by such sorry fellows. He then swore he would never forgive them, and ordered that they should be brought to a trial; which did not last long, for there was no need of much proof: the portrait of the real Rosetta was produced, as also the person of the counterfeit. The imposture was plain: so the two princes were condemned to be beheaded as cheats, for having promised the king a beautiful princess, and instead of such a one, presented him with an ugly wench, hardly fit for his groom.

The judges went in great solemnity to the prison, to pronounce the princes sentence; who cried out, they had not put any trick upon him; that their sister was a princess, and as bright as the day; that there must be some mistake in the matter; and desired respite of execution for seven days, in which time their innocence might be made appear. The King of the Peacocks, who was mightily enraged at them, could hardly be persuaded to favour them so far; but at last he was prevailed with to spare their lives so long.

While things went on thus at court, the poor princess Rosetta was in a miserable condition. As soon as day broke, she was amazed to find herself in the middle of the sea, and Fretillion in no less amazement than his mistress. She wept, and wept as if she meant to swell the ocean with her tears. The fish who beheld them, pitied the sorrowful princess. She knew not what to do, nor what to think. 'Certainly (said she to herself) I was flung here by the King of the Peacock's order; he repents of marrying me, and to get rid of me would have me drowned. He is a strange sort of a man surely, for I should have loved him so well, and we should have lived so comfortably together?', She then fell a weeping again more than ever, for she could not help loving him.

Two days she remained floating upon the sea, soaked to the very bone, numbed with cold, and almost ready to give up the ghost; and indeed, had it not been for the company of her Fretillion, she had died a hundred times in those two days, if it had been possible. She was very hungry; but she took up oysters as many as she could, and swallowed them. Fretillion did not love them, yet as he must eat them or starve, it brought his stomach too a little. When night came, Rosetta's fears increased; and quoth she to her dog, 'Bark, Fretillion, lest the fish eat us.' He barked all night, and the current drove the princess's bed on shore, near an old man's house, who lived alone in a little cottage, where nobody ever came to see him. He was very poor, and did not mind worldly goods, provided he had ease
and

and sustenance. When he heard Fretrillion bark he was surpris'd, and could not tell whether he was awake or asleep, there being no dogs in his neighbourhood.—He imagin'd that some travellers were got out of their way, and came out of his hut with a charitable intention to put them into it. On a sudden he espied the princess and Fretrillion swimming on the sea; and the princess seeing him, held up her hand, crying out. 'Help me father, or we shall perish: I have languish'd already these two days.'

When he heard her make that pitiful moan, he was touch'd to the heart with compassion, ran into his house to fetch out a long pole with a crook at the end, to pull the bed ashore, and went into the sea up to his chin to hawl her out, which, not without much danger and difficulty, he effected. Rosetta and Fretrillion both rejoic'd when they set foot on dry ground. She thank'd the good man for assisting her, and wrapped herself up in her coverlid: then, barefoot as she was, she walk'd to his cottage, where he lighted a fire of dry leaves, and took his late wife's bed-gown, with some clean shoes and stockings, to clothe the princess; who, thus dress'd like a country girl, look'd as fair as the morning, and Fretrillion leaped about to divert her.

*And when the perils of the deep are o'er,
With food supply'd the fainting fair ashore;
None ever such an useful creature knew,
Or dog so serviceable and so true.
Rosetta, who so much had suffer'd, spar'd
The traitors, fearful of their crime's reward.
Learn ye, who have been injur'd, to forgive
Like her, and to restrain your vengeance strive:
Besides that fortune, now your friend, may change,
'Tis greater to forgive, than to revenge.*

The good old man perceiv'd that Rosetta was a lady of quality, for the coverlid of her bed was cloth of gold and silver, and her quilt of satin. He begg'd her to tell him her adventures, and promis'd not to say a

word, if she exacted silence from him. To satisfy him, she told him the whole story from one end to the other, ending her relation with tears; for she still believed that the king of the Peacocks had ordered her to be drowned. ‘What shall I get for you, that you may eat? (quoth the old man) so great a princess as you must have been must have been used to dainties; and as for me, I have nothing but my brown bread and turnips, which will be but a sorry meal for your highness; if you would give me leave I will go and tell the King of the Peacocks that you are here; for certainly, as soon as he sees you, he will marry you.’ ‘Ah! (replied Rosetta) he is a rogue, he would have me drowned; but if you have a little basket, tie it about my dog’s neck, and he will be more unfortunate than ever I knew him, if he does not fetch us some provisions.’ The old man brought out a basket, and gave it the princess, who tied it about Fretillion’s neck, saying, ‘Go, sirrah, to the best pot in the city, and bring me what is in it.’ Fretillion ran to the town, and the king’s pot being the best, went straight to the kitchen royal, opened the pot, and took out what was within it, and returned to his mistress. Rosetta patted him on the back, and bade him go back and do his office again. Fretillion returned a second time, so loaded with bread and wine, fruits and sweet-meats, that he could hardly lug them along. When the King of the Peacocks called for his dinner the cook examining the pot which was over the fire, found there was nothing in it, and the desert was also missing. The servants of the household stared upon one another, and could not guess how it was gone. The King fell into a violent passion: however, he was forced to go without his dinner. ‘Well, (said he) let me have something roasted for supper, or you shall pay for it severely.’ Supper-time being come, says the princess to Fretillion, ‘Go to town, and fetch me the best thing out of the best kitchen there.’ The dog who had been taught to fetch and carry, did as his mistress commanded him; and knowing no kitchen better than the king’s, went thither, entered it softly, and very dextrously

dextrously carried off the roast meat. He returned to the princess with his basket full; and she commanding him again to do his office, he went to the palace again, and brought away the desert a second time.

The King having no dinner, had a good stomach to his supper, and ordered it to be ready early; but there was nothing for him, which threw him into a greater rage than before. He raved and stormed, but all to no purpose; the roasted meat was gone, and he was compelled to go to bed supperless. He was served the same trick the next day at dinner and supper: so that his majesty lived three days without eating or drinking: for whenever he sat down, the meat was always missing. The chief favourite and minister, who was concerned for the health of the King, hid himself in a little corner of the kitchen, and kept his eye upon the pot that was over the fire. He had not stayed there long, before, to his great surprise, he saw a little green dog with one ear enter softly, open the pot, take out the meat, and put it into his basket, he followed, to see where he went; the dog ran directly to his mistress at the old man's house. The favourite returned to court, and told the King what he had seen, and that both his roast meat and boiled meat was every day carried to a poor peasant's house. The King was amazed at it, and commanded the country man to be brought before him. The prime minister took some serjeants with him, and away they went to the peasant's house, where they found the princess and the old man at dinner, eating his majesty's boiled and roast very contentedly. The favourite bade the serjeants apprehend them: so Rosetta, the old man and Fretillion, were bound and led away to the palace.

When they arrived there, word was brought to the King; who answered, to-morrow is the last day that these two cheats have to live; let the thief who robbed me of my dinner die with them. He then entered the hall of justice to try the criminals; the old man fell upon his knees, and promised to confess all, if he would spare his life. While he was speaking the king looked upon the fair princess, and pitied her when he saw her weep: but when the old man declared that she was the princess Rosetta, whom the wicked nurse and mariner

had thrown into the sea : though the King was faint enough with three days fasting, he gave three leaps for joy, that shewed his majesty could cut a caper with the nimblest of them. He ran to the princess, unbound her, embraced her, and said he loved her dearly.

He presently gave orders to bring forth the princes who imagined it was to their execution, held down their heads like condemned men. The nurse and her daughter were also sent for. When they all met together, they all knew one another. The princess threw her arms about her brothers necks: the nurse and mariner begged pardon upon their knees. The king and the princess were so overjoyed, that they forgave them. The good old countryman was liberally rewarded, and had an apartment in the palace, where he lived all his life-time afterwards. The King of the Peacocks did his utmost to make the princes amends for their sufferings. The nurse restored Rosetta her rich robes and the bushel of crowns of gold. The nuptial festival lasted fifteen days; every one was pleased, not excepting even Fretillion, who would eat nothing for the future but the wings of partridges.

THE MORAL.

Heaven is our guard, and innocence its care,
Nor need the just the worst of dangers fear ;
It pities the defenceless virgin's grief,
And sends her, when she calls, help and relief ;
It arms the surest succour and the best,
Delivers and revenges the distress'd.

When fair Rosetta on the waves was tost,
What hope had she to reach the distant coast ?
Who that had heard the billows round her roar
Could think she ever could have gain'd the shore ?
Who would not have believ'd her lovely flesh
Would be some hungry whale's delicious dish ?

Soft pity must have melted all his frame,
To view the dangers of the floating dame.
Heav'n heard her cries, or soon she'd been a prey
To death and the fell monsters of the sea.
His part her little dog Fretillion play'd,
Who snapt the finny foes to save the maid.

THE
CURIOUS STORY

OF THE
WHITE MOUSE.

IN the kingdom of Bonbobbin, which, by the Chinese annals appears to have flourished twenty thousand years ago, there reigned a prince, endowed with every accomplishment which generally distinguishes the sons of kings. His beauty was brighter than the sun. The sun, to which he was nearly related, would sometimes stop his course, in order to look down and admire him.

His mind was not less perfect than his body; he knew all things without having ever read; philosophers, poets, and historians submitted their works to his decision; and so penetrating was he, that he could tell the merit of a book, by looking on the cover. He made epick poems, tragedies, and pastorals, with surprising facility; song, epigram or rebus, was all one to him; though, it is observed he could never finish an acrostick. In short, the fairy who precided at his birth, had endowed him with almost every perfection, or what was just the same, his subjects were ready to acknowledge he possessed them all; and, for his own part, he knew nothing to the contrary. A prince so accomplished, received a name suitable to his merit: and he was called Bonbenin-bonbob-

bin-bonbobbinet, which signifies enlightener of the sun.

As he was very powerful, and yet unmarried, all the neighbouring kings earnestly sought his alliance. Each sent his daughter, dressed out in the most magnificent manner, and with the most sumptuous retinue imaginable, in order to allure the prince; so that, at one time, there were seen at his court, not less than seven hundred foreign princesses, of exquisite sentiment and beauty, each alone sufficient to make seven hundred ordinary men happy.

Distracted in such a variety, the generous Bonbenin, had he not been obliged by the laws of the empire to make choice of one, would very willingly have married them all, for none understood gallantry better. He spent numberless hours of solicitude, in endeavouring to determine whom he should chuse; one lady was possessed of every perfection, but he disliked her eyebrows; another was brighter than the morning star, but he disapproved of her song whang; a third did not lay white enough on her cheeks: and the fourth did not sufficiently blacken her nails. At last, after numberless disappointments on the one side and the other, he made choice of the incomparable Nanhoa, queen of the scarlet dragons.

The preparations for the royal nuptials, or the envy of the disappointed ladies, needs no description; both the one and the other were as great as they could be.—The beautiful princess was conducted, amidst admiring multitudes to the royal couch, where, after being divested of every incumbering ornament, he came more chearful than the morning; and, printing on her lips a burning kiss, the attendants took this as a proper signal to withdraw.

Perhaps I ought to have mentioned, in the beginning, that among several other qualifications, the prince was fond of collecting and breeding mice, which being a harmless pastime, none of his councillors thought proper to dissuade him from; he therefore kept a great variety of these pretty little animals, in the most beautiful cages,
enriched

enriched with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls, and other precious stones; thus he innocently spent four hours each day in contemplating their innocent little pastimes.

But, to proceed—The Prince and princess were now retired to repose; and though night and secrecy had drawn the curtain, yet delicacy retarded those enjoyments which passion presented to their view. The prince happened to look towards the outside of the bed, perceived one of the most beautiful animals in the world, a white mouse with green eyes, playing about the floor, and performing a hundred pretty tricks. He was already master of blue mice, red mice, and mice with green eyes, was what he long endeavoured to possess: wherefore, leaping from bed, with the utmost impatience and agility, the youthful prince attempted to seize the little charmer; but it was fled in a moment; for, alas! the mouse was sent by a discontented princess, and was itself a fairy.

It is impossible to describe the agony of the prince upon this occasion. He sought round and round every part of the room, even the bed where the princess lay was not exempt from the inquiry: he turned the princess on one side and the other, stripped her quite naked, but no mouse was to be found; the princess herself was kind enough to assist, but still to no purpose.

‘Alas, (cried the young prince in an agony) how unhappy am I to be thus disappointed? never sure was so beautiful an animal seen; I would give half my kingdom and my princess to him that would find it.’ The princess, though not much pleased with the latter part of his offer, endeavoured to comfort him as well as she could: she let him know that he had a hundred mice already, which ought to be at least sufficient to satisfy any philosopher like him. Though none of them had green eyes, yet he should learn to thank heaven that they had eyes. She told him (for she was a profound moralist) that incurable evils must be borne, and that useless lamentations were vain, and that man was born to misfortunes: she even entreated him to return to bed, and she would endeavour to lull him on her bosom to

E 2

repose;

repose : but still the prince continued inconsolable ; and, regarded her with a stern air, for which his family was remarkable ; he vowed never to sleep in a royal palace or indulge himself in the innocent pleasures of matrimony, till he had found the mouse with the green eyes.

When morning came, he published an edict, offering half his kingdom, and his princess, to that person who should catch and bring him the white mouse with green eyes.

The edict was scarcely published, when all the traps in the kingdom were baited with cheese : numberless mice were taken and destroyed : but still the much wished for mouse was not among the number. The privy council were assembled more than once to give their advice ; but all their deliberations came to nothing ; even tho' there were two complete vermin killers, and three professed rat-catchers of the number. Frequent addresses, as is usual on extraordinary occasions, were sent from all parts of the empire ; but though these promised well, though in them he received an assurance, that his faithful subjects would assist in his search, with their lives and fortunes, yet, with all their loyalty they failed, when the time came that the mouse was to be caught.—

The prince, therefore, was resolved to go himself in search, determined never to lay two nights in one place, till he had found what he sought for. Thus quitting his palace, without attendants, he set out upon his journey, and travelled through many a desert, and crossed many a river, high over hills, and down among vales, still restless, still inquiring wherever he came : but no white mouse was to be found.

As one day, fatigued with his journey, he was shading himself, from the heat of the mid-day sun, under the arching branches of a banana tree, meditating on the object of his pursuit, he perceived an old woman hideously deformed, approaching him : by her stoop and the wrinkles of her visage, she seemed at least five hundred years old ; and the spotted toad was not more freckled than was her skin. ' Ah ? prince Bonbenin-bonbobbin-
 ' bonbobinet

' bonbobinet (cried the creature) what has led you so
 ' many thousand miles from your own kingdom?
 ' what is it you look for, and what induces you to travel
 ' into the kingdom of the emmits?' The prince, who
 ' was excessively complaisant, told her the whole story
 ' three times over, for she was was hard of hearing.—
 ' well said the old fairy, (for such she was) I promise to
 ' put you in possession of the White Mouse, with green
 ' eyes, and that immediately too, upon one condition.
 ' One condition (continued the prince in a rapture)
 ' name a thousand; I shall undergo them all with plea-
 ' sure.' ' Nay (interrupted the old fairy) I ask but one,
 ' and that not very mortifying neither; it is only that
 ' you instantly consent to marry me.' It is impossible
 ' to express the prince's confusion at this demand: he
 ' loved the mouse, but he detested the bride; he hesita-
 ' ted; he desired time to think on the proposal. He would
 ' have been glad to consult his friends on such an occasi-
 ' on. ' Nay, nay, cried the odious fairy, if you demur,
 ' I retract my promise; I do not desire to force my fa-
 ' vours on any man. Here, you my attendant, (cried
 ' she, stamping with her foot) let my machine be driven up:
 ' Barbacela, queen of Emmets, is not used to contemp-
 ' tuous treatment.' She had no sooner spoken than
 ' her fiery chariot appeared in the air, drawn by two
 ' snails; and she was just going to step in, when the prince
 ' reflected, that now or never was the time to be in pos-
 ' session of the white mouse; and quite forgetting his law-
 ' ful princess, Nanhoo, falling on his knees, he implored
 ' forgiveness for having rashly rejected so much beauty.
 ' This well-timed compliment instantly appeased the an-
 ' gry fairy. She affected an hideous leer of approbation,
 ' and taking the young prince by the hand, conducted
 ' him to a neighbouring church, where they were mar-
 ' ried together in a moment. As soon as the ceremony
 ' was performed, the prince who was to the last degree
 ' desirous of seeing his favourite mouse, reminded the
 ' bride of her promise. ' To confess a truth, my prince
 ' (cried she) I myself am that very white mouse you saw
 ' on your wedding night in the royal apartment. I

‘ now therefore give you your choice, whether you would have me a mouse by day, and a woman by night, or a mouse by night, and a woman by day.’ Though the prince was an excellent casuist, he was quite at a loss how to determine; but at last thought it most prudent to have recourse to a blue cat, that had followed him from his own dominions, and frequently amused him with its conversation, and assisted him with its advice: in fact this cat was no other than the faithful princess Nanhua herself, who had shared with him all his hardships in this disguise.

By her instructions he was determined in his choice; and, returning to the old fairy, prudently observed, that, as she must have been sensible he had married her only for the sake of what she had, and not for her personal qualifications, he thought it would, for several reasons, be most convenient, if she continued a woman by day, and appeared a mouse by night.

The old fairy was a good deal mortified at her husband's want of gallantry, though she was reluctantly obliged to comply: the day was therefore spent in the most polite amusement, the gentlemen talked, the ladies laughed, and were angry. At last the happy night drew near; the blue cat still stuck by the side of its master, and even followed him to the bridal apartment.—Barbacela entered the chamber, wearing a train fifteen yards long, supported by porcupines, and all over beset with jewels, which served to render her more detestable. She was just stepping into bed to the prince, forgetting her promise, when he insisted upon seeing her in the shape of a mouse. She had promised, and no fairy can break her word; wherefore assuming the figure of the most beautiful mouse in the world, she skipped and played about with an infinity of amusement. The prince in an agony of rapture, was desirous of seeing his pretty playfellow move a slow dance about the floor to his own singing; he began to sing, and the mouse immediately to perform with the most perfect knowledge of time, and the finest grace and greatest gravity imaginable; it only began, for Nanhua, who had
long

long waited for the opportunity, in the shape of a cat, flew upon it instantly, without remorse, and eating it up in the hundredth part of a moment, broke the charm, and then resumed her natural figure.

The prince now found that he had all along been under the power of enchantment; that his passion for the White Mouse was entirely fictitious, and not the genuine complexion of his soul: he now saw, that his earnestness after mice was an illiberal amusement, and much more becoming a rat-catcher than a prince. All his meannesses now stared him in the face; he begged the princess's pardon an hundred times. The princess very readily forgave him; and both returned to their palace in Bانبobbin, lived very happily together, and reigned many years, with all that wisdom, which by the story, they appear to have been possessed of. Perfectly convinced by their former adventures, that they who place their affections on trifles at first for amusement, will find those trifles at last become their most serious concern.

THE
S T O R Y
OF
PRINCESS VERENATA.

IT happened upon a time, there was a certain king and queen, who had several children, but they all died; and the king and queen were so mightily troubled at it, that never any body could be more so. Their

coffers were all full, and they wanted only children to leave their treasures to. Five years were past since the queen had a child, and all the world believed she would have no more, because she afflicted herself too much for those pretty princes which she had buried.

But at last she was with child, and all her thoughts, night and day, were what she should do to preserve the royal infant when it was born, what name she should give it, what clothes, what babies, and play-things provide for it.

Proclamation was made, and orders set up in all places, that the best nurses in the kingdom should come to court, that the queen might chuse one out of them to nurse the expected baby. Immediately the good women came from all quarters: the court was full of nurses, with their little children in their arms. The queen being one day walking to take the air in a neighbouring wood, and the king with her, she sat down to rest herself, and said to his majesty, ‘Sir, pray give orders that all those nurses be brought hither, that we may make choice of one of them, for all the cows we have will not yield milk enough to make pap for the children they have brought with them.’ ‘Very well, my dear (replied the king)’ and streight he commanded that the nurses should come to them. They accordingly came, one after another, and made each a fine courtly to their majesties. Then they stood along in a row, and the king and queen surveyed them in general first, and afterwards in particular; they examined their fresh complexions, their white teeth, and their breast full of milk. Among the rest came an ugly jade, drawn in a wheel-barrow, by two nasty dwarfs: she was a cripple, and so crooked that her chin and knees almost met.—She had a great wen in her face? she squinted, and her skin was as black as ink: she held something in her arms like a little infant monkey, to which she gave suck, and spake a jargon that nobody understood. She approached their majesties in her turn to offer her service, but the queen bid her be gone; ‘Get ye hence you filthy
beast

‘beast! (quoth her majesty;) what put it into your head of such a creature as thou art to come hither? if thou dost not get thee away instantly, I shall order thee to be driven after another manner.’ The beldam muttered to herself, and retreated to an old tree, where she lay in a crevice of the trunk and saw all that passed.—The queen thinking no more of her, chose a handsome young woman to be her nurse; but as soon as she had named her, a horrible snake, which lay in the grass, stung her in the foot, and she fell down as if she had been dead. The queen was very sorry for the accident, and made choice of another. She had no sooner done it, but an eagle, which flew over the nurse’s head with a huge turtle in her claws dropped it on the woman’s head, and broke it in pieces as if it had been glass. The queen was more concerned at this accident than the other; yet she chose a third nurse for the child that was to be born; and this woman running too hastily towards her, fell down against the stump of a tree, and struck her eye out. ‘Alas! (says her majesty) I see this is an unfortunate day; I cannot pitch upon a nurse, but presently some mischief comes to her: let a surgeon be sent for to look after them.’ So she arose from her seat, and was returning to the palace, when she heard somebody laugh aloud; and turning back, she espied the old deformed beldam behind her, like a baboon’s mate with her young ape in a wheel-barrow.—She laughed at the whole company, and at the queen in particular: which so enraged her majesty, that she would have fallen upon and beaten her, very much suspecting that she had been the cause of the mischiefs that had befallen the nurses. But the jade struck thrice with her wand, and the dwarfs were immediately changed into dragons, the wheel-barrow into a chariot of fire, and away she flew into the air, threatening what she would do to all of them, and making dreadful cries.—‘Alas, (said the king) we are undone! it is the fairy Carabossa; the wretch has hated me ever since I was a little boy, for playing her a trick once, and throwing

some brimstone into her porridge : she vowed to be revenged, and has from that time taken all opportunities to exercise her vengeance upon me.' The queen wept, and replied, ' Had I known who she was, sir, I had given her good words, and endeavoured to have made her my friend. This misfortune will certainly be the death of me.' When the king saw she grieved so much about it ; he strove to comfort her, though he wanted comfort himself. ' Come, my dear (says the monarch) let us go and consult our council upon the matter.' He then took her by the arm, and held her up as she walked home, for she trembled still at the thoughts of the danger she was in from Carabossa's revenge.

When their majesties returned to their palace, they summoned their chief counsellors to attend them in their chamber. The doors and windows were shut very close that they might not be overheard ; and it was gravely resolved, that all the fairies a thousand leagues about should be invited to the queen's labour. Couriers were dispatched, and very civil letters written to the fairy ladies to desire them to come to her majesty's crying-out, and to keep the matter secret, for fear Carabossa should hear of it. To satisfy them for their trouble, each of them was promised a waistcoat of blue velvet, a petticoat of crimson, some pink satin, slippers of the same colour, some gilded scissars, and a needle-case full of fine needles.

As soon as the messengers were departed, the queen and her maids set to work to provide the things that were promised to be given the fairies. She knew several, but there came only five. They arrived in the very moment that the queen was brought to bed of a princess. The fairies would each give her a blessing : one endowed her with perfect beauty ; another with an infinite deal of wit ; a third with a talent to sing admirably ; a fourth with a genius to write well in prose and verse. As the fifth was going to speak, they heard a noise in the chimney like that of a great stone falling down from the top of a steeple, and Carabossa

bossa appeared all over in a sweat, crying out, 'And I also endow this little creature ;

• *Mischief she shall give and take*

• *'Till her years doth twenty make.*'

The queen, who was in her bed, fell a weeping at these words, and begged Carabossa to pity the poor innocent princess. All the fairies did the same ; saying, ' Pray, sister, uncharm her.' But the ugly wretch was inexorable, and would not be persuaded to it. So the fifth fairy who had said nothing, to make up the matter, endowed her with a long and happy life, after the time of Carabossa's curse was expired. The beldam fairy did nothing but laugh at them, sung some songs in contempt of them, and mounting her invisible car, returned as she came, through the chimney. All the sisters were in great consternation : the poor queen was at death's door, so close had Carabossa's wayward charms struck her. However, she gave the fairies what she had promised them ; and added some ribbons, of which they are very fond. The courtiers made much of them ; and the oldest of them, when she went away, advised the queen to let the princess be kept in some place or other till she was twenty years old, where she might be seen by none, except by her woman, who should be commanded to keep her locked up closely. Upon this the king ordered a tower to be built, close and fast at top, and no windows to it ; with only a lamp burning within it. The way to it was through a valley, which ran along a league under ground. The nurses and governants had every thing they wanted conveyed to them by this dark passage ; and every twenty paces there was a strong door, and guards set to watch. The princess was called Verenata, because the rose and the lily joined in the colour of her complexion, which was as fresh and fair as the face of the spring. As she grew up she became a wonder in all the perfections with which the fairies had endowed her. The most difficult sciences were as soon learned by her as the most easy ; and she was so

beautiful, and so well shaped, that the king and queen always wept for joy when they saw her. She begged them sometimes to stay with her, or to suffer her to go out with them; for she was tired, though she could not tell why; but they always excused themselves.

Her nurse, who had lived with her from the time of her birth, and did not want wit, used to tell her what the world was, and she presently comprehended it as much as if she had seen it. The king said to the queen, 'My dear, Carabossa will be deceived, and our Verenata will be happy in spite of all her predictions.' And the queen was extremely pleased, to think how they should baulk the mischievous fairy's malace. They had ordered Verenata's picture to be drawn, and sent several of them to all the courts they could think of: for the time of her releasement approached, and they resolved to marry her, she being within four days of twenty years of age. The court and city prepared rejoicings for the day of the princess's liberty; and the public joy was increased by news that king Merlin had desired her in marriage for his son. Fapfarinet, Merlin's ambassador, arrived to demand her; and her nurse having represented that nothing in the world was so fine as his entry would be, the princess longed passionately to see it. 'How unhappy am I (said she) to be locked up in a dark tower! I have never seen the heavens, the sun, nor stars, of which I have heard such wonders: I have never seen a horse, an ape, or a lion, unless it be in painting.— The king and queen told me I should come out when I was twenty years old, but they only said it to amuse me, that I may be patient. It is plain, I am destined to perish here, without having given offence to any one.' She then wept so bitterly that her eyes swelled in her head: her nurse, her foster-sister, her dresser and rocker, and all her women who waited upon her, loved her entirely, and wept as much as she to see her weep. The whole company were almost drowned in tears, and choaked with sighs. Never was sorrow so complete. And the princess observed that they were all mightily concerned for her, took up a knife, threat-

ening

threatening them, if they did not contrive some way or other for her seeing Fanfarinet's public entry, she would strike it to her heart. She added, neither the king or queen should ever know it: consider with yourselves, had you rather I should stab myself here, than give me the satisfaction I desire of you? at these words, the nurse and the other attendant, broke out into tears, weeping and sighing: and they resolved they would get her an opportunity to see Fanfarinet, or die in attempting it.— They consulted the whole night how to bring it about, but could not think of the means to effect it. The princess, who was eager to see the sight, animated them in their consultations, by saying, 'Never tell me you love me again; if you did, you would find out a way to oblige me in this one request. I have read, that love and friendship surmount all difficulties.' At last they came to a resolution, to dig out a hole in the tower on that side of the city where Fanfarinet was to make his entry. They took down the princess's bed, and all of them were employed night and day in the business they had undertaken. They first scraped off the plaister, and then took out the stones. They removed so many, that a little hole was at last made, not so big as the eye of a needle, through which the light appeared; and that was the first time she saw it; it dazzled her, and she gazed at it continually. The women could not widen it, so she was forced to be content with what they had done; and looking through it sometime, at last Fanfarinet came by at the head of a noble train. He was mounted on a fine horse, which danced to the sound of trumpets, and curveted to a miracle. Before him marched six musicians, playing upon flutes, and six hautboys, which answered one another by echos; then followed trumpets and kettle drums. Fanfarinet had a coat on embroidered with pearls: his plume was of carnation colour: he could hardly be seen for ribbons and diamonds, which were not so rare in those countries as in our's, king merlin having whole chambers full of them. In a word he made such a shining figure, that the light did not seem brighter in the princess's eyes. She was so struck at the

sight, that she no longer remained mistress of herself: and having thought of it a little, she declared she would never marry any man but Fanfarinet, for it was not likely that his master could be so amiable as he. She said, her education had cured her of ambition, and it would be no hard matter for a princess, who had been bred up in a dark tower, to retire with him to a country house, if they were driven to it: that she had rather live upon bread and water with him, than have all the rarities in the world with another. In short she spoke so heartily, that her women began to be more alarmed than ever, fearing what would be the effects of her passion. They represented to her the injury she would do her own rank, to match with one of his. But their talk was in vain: She did not harken to them, resolved to follow her own inclination when she had it in her power.

As soon as Fanfarinet arrived at the king's palace, the queen sent for her daughter. All the streets were spread with tapestry, and the windows crowded with ladies; some had baskets of flowers in their hands, others baskets of laurels, others excellent odours, with which they scented the air to welcome the fair princess abroad. Her women beginning to dress her, a dwarf knocked at the tower gate, mounted on an elephant, sent by the five good fairies who had endowed her on her birth-day. They sent her a crown and sceptre, a robe of golden brocade, a petticoat of butterflies wings (a wonderful piece of work) and a casket full of inestimable jewels: such a treasure was never seen together before. The queen swooned with astonishment at the sight. The princess, on her part, took little notice of them, for all her thoughts were on Fanfarinet. The dwarf was thanked, and rewarded for his trouble with one thousand ells of fine ribbon, of several colours, with which he made garters, cravat-strings, and hatbands.—The queen desired him to stay till she had fetched something for the fairies, worthy their acceptance: and the princess, who was very generous, made them a present of some german spinning wheels, and cedar spindles.—The rare things which the dwarf brought were made use

of

of to adorn her : and she appeared so surprisngly beautiful to every body who saw her, that the sun's lustre was thought to be faint to her's. She walked through the streets on rich tapestry ; and the people who flocked to behold her, cried out continually, how lovely she is, how charming !

As she marched along in this pomp and splendour, accompanied by the queen and four or five dozen of princesses of the blood, besides ten dozen more who came from the neighbouring kingdoms to assist at this feast, the sky on a sudden darkened, the thunder rumbled in the air, and rain and hail fell in torrents. The queen flung her royal robes over her head ; the ladies did the same by theirs : and Verenata was going to do it, when the sound and cry of a thousand ravens, crows, owls, and other birds of ill omen was heard, which seemed to presage that nothing good would come to this festival. At the same time a rascally owl, of a prodigious bigness, was seen flying towards the princess with a cobweb scarf in his mouth, embroidered with bats wings, which he let fall on Verenata's shoulders. He had no sooner done it, but the company heard a loud laughter, and supposed it was a scurvy trick played them by Carabossa.

Every one was grieved at this melancholy sight, and the queen more than all of them : she wept, and endeavoured to take off the black scarf from her daughter's shoulders, but it stuck as close as if it had been a part of her. ' Ah (cried she) our enemy is too hard for us ' still ; nothing will appease her. I sent her fifty ' pounds of comfits, as much double refined sugar, and ' two Westphalia hams, and she is as mischievous as ' ever.'

While she was complaining thus, the princess, and all that attended her, began to be wet to their skins.—Verenata, whose head was full of the ambassador, got ground of them all in the procession, and went on without saying a word. She thought, if she had the good luck to please the man she loved, she would neither care for Carabossa nor for her scarf, though it was looked upon

to be such a bad presage. She admired, within herself, why he did not come to meet her; but her admiration was at an end, when she saw him advancing by the side of the king; upon which the trumpets sounded, the drums beat, and the violins made an agreeable entertainment to the assembly, who redoubled their shouts, and their joy was as extraordinary as the occasion of it.

Fanfarinet had a great deal of wit: but when he beheld the grace, majesty, and beauty of the princess he was so transported, that instead of seriously talking when he courted her, one would have imagined he was drunk, though he drank nothing but a dish of chocolate. He became like a madman, when he perceived that with one glance he had forgot that fine harangue he had prepared for her, and which he had got so by heart, that he could before this minute repeat it in his sleep. While he was endeavouring to recollect himself, he made several low bows to the princess, who on her side also made him half a dozen courtesies, not considering what she did. At last she broke silence and to help him out of the confusion which she saw he was in, addressed herself thus to him: ‘ My lord Fanfarinet, I can easily imagine that all that you would say to me is charming; I doubt not but your wit is answerable to your character: Let us however make haste to the palace; it rains like a deluge: and Carabossa, who owes us this ill turn, will not spare us till we get thither.’ Fanfarinet replied very gallantly, ‘ The fairy had very wisely provided rain, to quench the fires which those bright eyes would light.’ He then took her by the hand, and led her forward. As they were walking, she said to him softly, ‘ You will not guess at the opinion I have of you, unless I explain myself further, ; it is true, I cannot do it without pain; but, *Honî soit qui mal y pense*, Evil be to them that evil think. Know then, my lord Ambassador, that I have beheld you with wonder, and was surprised at the charming figure you made on horseback at your public entry, when the horse danced and curved; I am sorry you came hither on any other man’s account. If you have as much courage as I to find out an

‘an expedient for it, instead of marrying you in your master’s name, I will marry you in your own. I know you are not a prince; what then? I like you as well as if you were: we’ll fly together to some corner of the world; we shall be blamed at first; no matter, others may do worse; and when people are weary of blaming us, they will leave us in quiet to enjoy our retirement, where I shall be glad to be with you.’

Fanfarinet thought he dreamt, for Verenata was a princess of admirable qualities and perfections, that he could never have hoped for that honour, unless some strange whimsey had seized her. He had not presence of mind enough to answer her; had they been alone, he would have thrown himself at her feet; he now could only clasp her hand, which he did so closely, that he hurt her little finger, yet she did not cry out: so much her passion ran in her head, that she was insensible of any thing else. When she entered the palace, a thousand of several sorts of musical instruments were tuned for her welcome, to which were added a concert of such heavenly voices, that the audience were afraid of breathing, lest they should make too much noise, and so interrupt the harmony. The king having kissed his daughter’s forehead and cheeks, spoke to her as follows: ‘my pretty lambkin (for he was used to give her such little tender names) are not you glad you are going to marry the great king Merlin’s son? the Lord Fanfarinet, whom you see here, is come to perform the ceremony, and will carry you into the finest kingdom in the world.’ The princess courtesied down to the ground, and answered, ‘I shall obey you, father, in all things with pleasure, if my dear mamma will consent to it.’ The princess was bred up in so much tenderness to her parents, that she had not forgot the pretty terms she used in her leading strings; ‘I consent (says her mother) with all my heart, (and embraced her as a token of her joy.)’ ‘Let dinner be got ready immediately,’ (quoth the queen.) It was no sooner said, but an hundred tables were spread in an instant, and all the company fell too hartily, except Verenata and Fanfarinet, who looked at one another so much, that they had no time for eating, nor thinking upon any thing else.—

After the feast there was a ball and a play : but it was so late before they had done supper, and they had eat so plentifully, that most of the people of quality, and others who were there, slept as they sat. Their majesties themselves fell into a sound nap on a couch ; the lords and ladies snored again, and the fiddlers nodded over their instruments, and knew not what they did. Our lovers were the only persons that were well awake : and seeing they were not observed, toyed as lovers are used to do when they have an opportunity to shew their passions. Verenata perceiving the guards, as well as the rest, were asleep, said to Fansarinet, ‘ this minute is ours ; let us improve it and be gone ; if we stay till the marriage ceremony is over, the king will place some ladies of the court about me, and order a prince to accompany me to your master’s court ; it is better for us to take hold of the present opportunity than to wait for another.’ She then rose up, and took the king’s dagger from his side, which was all over set in diamonds. She also carried away with her the queen’s mantle, which she had laid by, to sleep the more at her ease, in which was a carbuncle of inestimable value, and a diamond that rendered the person who wore it invisible. Fansarinet took her by her lily white hand, and bending one knee to the ground, replied, ‘ I swear by all that is held sacred in heaven or earth, that I will eternally be faithful and obedient to your highness : you do every thing for me madam, and can there be any thing that I will not do for you ?’ They then went both of them out of the palace, the ambassador taking a dark lanthorn in his hand. They passed through several bye-streets and lanes, till they came to the sea-side, where they took a boat. Their mariner was a poor old fellow who lay asleep in his bark. They wak’d him ; and when he saw Verenata so beautiful and glittering with jewels, with the black batt-feather scarf on her shoulders, he took her for the goddess of night, and fell down to worship her. The lovers had no time for ceremonies ; they commanded him to put to sea, which he was not over willing to do, for there was neither moon

nor stars to be seen, the weather being still cloudy, occasioned by the tempest Carabossa had raised. It is true, there was a carbuncle on the queen's mantle, which shone more than fifty lighted torches, and Fanfarinet might, as we are told, have saved himself the trouble of carrying a dark lanthorn with him. The ambassador asked the princess whither she would go? 'Alas (said she) ' I will go along with you; wherever you will go, I will ' go; I think of nothing else.' 'But, madam,, (quoth Fanfarinet) I dare not conduct you to the court of king ' Merlin; it is as much as my neck is worth to be ' caught within his dominions. Well then (replied Verenata) let us go to the desert isle of Squirrels; it is ' far enough off, and we need not fear being followed ' thither,' She ordered the mariner to set sail; and though his bark was of a very small size, he obeyed her.

As day began to break, the king, queen, and court, having shook their ears and rubbed their eyes a little, got up, intending to finish the solemnity of the princess's marriage. The queen hastily called for her mantle, and search was directly made after it, from the closet to the kitchen, but no mantle was to be found. Then her majesty went herself to seek it, ran up stairs and down stairs into the cellar and garret, but no tidings could be heard of it.

The king also in his turn was willing to adjust himself, and in order to it to put his bright dagger by his side, which being missing, as well as the mantle royal, half the court were employed to search for it; boxes and coffers were opened, whose inside had not seen the sun in an hundred years. A thousand rarities were found, puppets that could turn about their heads and eyes, golden sheep with their little lambs, sweet-meats and comfits: but no dagger; so the king was inconsolable; he tore his reverend beard, and the queen her hair to keep him company. Indeed the loss was great, for the mantle and dagger were worth more than ten cities as big as London.

When the king despaired of finding what they had lost, he took heart, and said to the queen, 'courage my dear

‘ dear, let us finish the solemnity of our daughter’s nuptials, which has already cost us so dear.’ He asked where the princess was? her nurse came up and told him, that she had been seeking her above two hours, and could not find her. This bad news so increased the king and his consort’s trouble, that they could not support themselves under it. The queen cried out like an eagle that had lost her young, and fell into a swoon. And never was a more melancholy sight; above two pails of hungary water were thrown upon her majesty’s face before they could fetch her to life again. The ladies and maids of honour wept as if they had been at a funeral, and not at a wedding. The servants came one and all, in a doleful tone, saying, ‘ What, is the king’s daughter lost?’ And the king seeing she was not to be found, bade his page look out Fanfarinet, who doubtless, says he is sleeping in one corner of the room or other, and let him come and grieve with us. The page sought after him every where, and could hear no more tidings of him than of the mantle and dagger. This misfortune was another affliction to their majesties, who in truth had enough before to render them the most disconsolate couple on earth.

The king summoned all the councillors and officers, civil and military, to attend him in the great hall of the palace, where he and his queen, who we may perceive was a considerable person in the government, went to them clad in deep mourning. Their rich robes being thrown off, each of them had a black gown on, tied round with a rope, to express the greatness of their sorrows. When the assembly saw them in this lamentable condition, the hall resounded with sighs and groans, and the floor was overwhelmed with floods of tears.—The king, who had not time enough to prepare a speech, suitable to the occasion, was silent three hours. At length he opened his majestic mouth and spoke as follows.

Hear, little and great; hear your king, and help him with your advice. I have lost my dear daughter Verenata, and know not whether she is destroyed or stolen from me; the queen’s mantle

mantle and my dagger, which are worth more than their weight in gold, are also gone; and what is worst of all, the ambassador Fanfarinet is not to be found. It is to be feared, when the king his master is informed of this accident, he will come and seek after him, and charge us with cutting him as small as minced meat, for a christmas pye. I should not take it so much to heart, if I had money to spare; but I must confess to you plainly, the charges of the wedding have undone me.— Tell me, my dear subjects, what shall I do, and what means you would have me make use of to retrieve my daughter, Fanfarinet, the mantle, and the dagger.

Every body admired the king's eloquent speech, he never made so florid a one in his life; and my lord Gambello, chancellor of the kingdom, in the name of the assembly, replied thus, not bating him an ace in eloquence:

S I R,

We are all sorry for your sorrow, and would rather have parted with our wives and children, than you should have had so much cause to grieve; but it is plain, this is a trick of Carabossa the fairy: the princess's twentieth year is not yet expired; and since I must speak my sentiments, or your majesty suffer by my double-dealings with you, I freely declare, that I observed she was always ogling Fanfarinet, and he her. Perhaps love has been playing one of his pranks, as often happens with persons of their ages.

The queen, who was naturally hasty, interrupted the chancellor, saying, 'Have a care what you say, my lord chancellor; the princess, I would have you to know, is no such sort of person as to fall in love with Fanfarinet; I have bred her up too well for that.' Then the nurse, who was one of the company, fell at the king's feet, and said, 'I am come to tell your majesties the whole truth of the matter. The princess swore she would see Fanfarinet make his public entry, or stab herself on the spot: we made a little hole in the tower through which she saw him, and immediately

‘ately protested she would never marry any man but
‘him.’ The assembly hearing this, were extremely
troubled at Verenata’s folly and fortune: they saw that
Gambello’s penetration was greater than her majesty’s;
who all in a rage, scolded at Verenata’s nurse, and dres-
ser, rocker, foster-sister and companion, so terribly,
that hanging would hardly have been a worse punish-
ment. Admiral Sharp-Cap interrupting the queen,
cried out, ‘My lords, let’s after Fanfarinet, for without
‘doubt this jackanapes has carried off our princess.’—
Every body clapped their hands in applause of their ad-
miral, and there was not a man but said he would fol-
low him. Some of them went by sea, and others by
land, who traveling from kingdom to kingdom, with
drums beating and trumpets sounding, made proclama-
tion, ‘That whoever could tell tale or tidings of the
‘princess Verenata, whom Fanfarinet had stolen
‘out of her father’s palace, should have for their reward
‘a fine baby, some sweet-meats wet and dry, some
‘little sciffars, a gown made of cloth of gold, and a fa-
‘tin bonnet.’ The answer every where was, ‘You must
‘go somewhere else, we know nothing of them.’

Those who went by sea were more fortunate; for,
after a pretty long voyage, they one night perceived
something before them which shone like a great fire,
but were afraid of coming up near to it, not knowing
what it was; when all on a sudden the light stopped at
the desert isle of Squirrels, for it was indeed the princess’s
carbuncle that was so luminous: and she and her lover
landing there gave the mariner one hundred crowns of
gold, bid him farewell, and charged him for his life not
to speak a word to any one what ever of his adventure.

The good man in his way back, met the king’s ships,
which he no sooner saw but he endeavoured to avoid
them. The admiral perceived it, ordered a galley to
give him chace, and the old man was too weak to row
from her. So the admiral’s men came up with him,
took him, and carried him before their commander, who
caused him to be secured, and the hundred pieces of
gold being found in his pocket, the very same pieces that
had

had been coined in honour of the princess's nuptials, Sharp-cap examined him: and the mariner, that he might not be obliged to speak the truth, affected to appear deaf and dumb. 'So, so (says the admiral) we shall soon bring him to his tongue, I will warrant ye.' So he commanded him to be tied to the main mast; and exercised with a cat o'nine-tails; one of the best remedies in the world for mutes. When the old man saw they were in earnest, he confessed that a heavenly creature, in the shape of a young lady, and a gallant gentleman, had hired his boat to convey them to the desert isle of Squirrels. The admiral imagined presently it was the princess and Fanfarinet, and sailed to that island in pursuit of them.

In the mean time Verenata, tired with the fatigue of the sea, and finding a green bank under a covert of trees, laid down and fell asleep. Fanfarinet whose stomach was sharper than his love, did not let her sleep long. 'Do you think, madam, (says he waking her) that I can stay here for ever? I do not see any thing that is eatable upon the place: though you were fairer than Aurora, that would not satisfy my hunger; one must have some nourishment, or there is no living; my stomach's sharp, and my belly empty.' 'How! (replied Verenata;) do the marks that I have given you of my friendship go for nothing with you; is it possible your mind can be biassed about any thing but the contemplation of your good fortune?' 'It is rather taken up (said Fanfarinet) about my bad; would to heaven you were in your black tower again.' 'Do not be so out of humour, my good cavalier (quoth the princess, smiling) 'I will go search the woods, and perhaps I may light upon some fruit to satisfy you.' — 'I had rather you might find a wolf to eat you (replied Fanfarinet, churlishly.)' Verenata, as she afterwards said, went up and down the woods, tearing her robes among the briars, and her white skin with the thorns, she was scratched as if she had been playing with cats. And thus it is, if young women will fall in love with young fellows, there is nothing but trouble comes of it. When she had searched

searched every where in vain, she returned very sorrowful to Fanfarinet and told him the uncomfortable news. He turned his back upon her, and left her, muttering between his teeth.

The next day they looked about for some eatables as unsuccessfully as the first; so that they were forced for three days together to live upon leaves and locusts.— Though the princess had been, without comparison, much more delicately bred than the ambassador, yet she did not complain. ‘I should be content, (said she to her lover) if I suffered alone, and would be willing to die of hunger if I could procure some good cheer for you.’ ‘It is all one to me (quoth Fanfarinet) whether you live or die, provided I have what I want.’— ‘Is it possible (cried Verenata) that you should be so little concerned at my death? are these the oaths which you swore when you left my father’s court?’ ‘There is a great deal of difference (says the ambassador) between a man at his ease, who has neither hunger nor thirst, and a wretch ready to be starved.’ She answered, I am in as much danger as you, and I do not complain.’ ‘You may well bear it with a good grace, (says Fanfarinet) who was so mad as to leave father and mother, to run up and down here like a vagabond; we are in a very pretty condition truly:’ ‘It is for love of you (replied Verenata) and at the same time gave him her hand. ‘I would have excused you, (said Fanfarinet) had I known what you would have brought me to;’ and then turned aside from her. The fair princess, overwhelmed with grief, wept incessantly, enough to have softened a heart of flint with her tears. She sat under a bush loaded with roses, white and red, to which she thus addressed herself, after she had for some time gazed upon them: ‘How blessed are you, ye young flowers; the zephyrs caress, the dew waters, the sun beautifies, the bees love you, your prickles defend you, and all the world admire you; must you alas be more happy than I!’ She then fell a weeping so excessively, that the root of the rose tree was moistened with her tears; and she had scarce done speaking, before, to

her great surprife, the bush stirred, the flowers blew, and the faireft of them answered her thus ; ‘ If thou hadft never loved, thy deftiny would have been to be envied as much as mine, love expofes people to the worft misfortunes. Poor princefs, look in the hollow of this tree, and you’ll find a honeycomb, but do not be foilly as to give it to Fanfarinet.’ Verenata rofe immediately, not knowing whether fhe was afleep or awake ; fearched the tree, found the hole, and honey in it, which fhe prefently carried to her ungrateful lover. ‘ Here, fays fhe, is a honeycomb, for you : I might have eat it all myfelf, but I had rather fhare it with you.’ The ambaffador fnatched it out of her hand, without fo much as thanking her, or looking upon her, eat it all up, and refufed to give her the leaft bit. He was fuch a brute as to infult her, by faying it was too fweet for her, and would fpoil her teeth ; with feveral other impertinent jefts. Verenata, more forrowful than ever, fat down under an oak, and made much the fame fort of complaint as fhe had made to the rofe tree. The oak, touched with compaffion, bowed down fome of its branches, and fpoke to this purpofe, (for it was all enchanted-ground that fhe trod upon :) ‘ It is a pity, fair Verenata, you fhould die fo young : take this pitcher of milk and drink it, without giving a drop to your ungrateful lover.’ The princefs, more aftonifhed than before, looked behind her, and fpied a great pitcher of milk. She forgot her own thirft prefently, and remembered Fanfarinet, whom fhe believed might well be thirfty after eating about fifteen pounds of honey ; fo fhe ran to him with the milk, bidding him quench his thirft, and remember to fave her fome, for fhe was almoft dead for want of it.— He took the pitcher rudely from her, drank it off every drop, flung the pitcher to the ground, and broke it to pieces, faying, with a malicious fmile. ‘ Thofe that have had no meat need no drink.’

The princefs lifted up her hands and bright eyes to heaven, cried out, ‘ It is juft ye powers ! I have deferved this punifhment for leaving my father and mother to love, and follow a man whom I never knew, with-

‘ out considering my duty to my parents, and my rank, or thinking on the miseries which Caraboffa threatened me with.’ After she had done speaking she wept more bitterly than she had done all her life time, and retired into the thickest of the wood, where out of mere faintness she fell down at the foot of an elm, on which a nightingale perched, and sung so wonderfully sweet, that her notes had almost charmed the wretched Verenata with pleasure. The bird, like the tree, had the gift of speech, and fluttering its wings, repeated these verses, which it had learnt on purpose out of Ovid, as if it had understood the princess’s distemper, and had brought her a cure:

*Cupid’s a knave, the traitor never smiles,
But when he would enslave us by his wiles :
And ever, with his favours he imparts
A deadly poison, that torments our hearts.*

‘ Who knows him better than I ? (answered Verenata, interrupting the bird :) I am too well acquainted with his cruelty and my evil destiny.’ Take heart (says the amorous nightingale ;) under yonder plant you will find some sugar-plumbs and almonds, but do not be so foolish as to give any of them to Fanfarinet.— The princess did not want that precaution now; she had not forgot the two last tricks he played her; besides she was so very hungry that she needed not many arguments to persuade her to eat when she had got food. So she cracked the almonds, eat the plumbs, and feasted on them by herself. Fanfarinet seeing her eat alone, fell in a furious passion: his eyes flashed fire, and he ran with his sword drawn to kill her: she, to defend herself, exposed the miraculous diamond, and so became invisible to him; she got out of his way, and reproached him with his ingratitude, in terms that shewed sufficiently that she could not yet hate him.

In the mean time admiral Sharp-Cap dispatched away John Prattlebox, courier in ordinary of the closet, to inform the king, that the princess and Fanfarinet, were

were landed on the isle of Squirrels, but that being a stranger in the country, he was cautious of making a decent for fear of ambuscades. Upon this news, which was joyful tidings to their majesties and their court, the king sent for a huge book, every leaf of which was eight ells long; It was the master-piece of a learned fairy, and contained a description of the whole world. The king found out in an instant that the isle of Squirrels was not inhabited. 'Go, (says he to John Prattlebox) and command the admiral in my name to land immediately; it may be of ill consequence to leave Fanfarinet and my daughter so long together.

As soon as the Courier arrived at the fleet, the admiral ordered the trumpets to sound, the drums to beat; cymbals, hautboys, flutes, violins, viols, organs, guitars, and a confused variety of instruments were played upon; which alarmed the princess and her lover, who was not very brave. Fanfarinet seeing the danger that approached, made his peace, in hopes of assistance from his mistress; who was too readily reconciled to him. 'Stand behind me (quoth Verenata) I will go before, hide you with my invisible diamond, and kill our enemies with my father's dagger, while you slay them with your sword.'

The invisible princess advanced against the soldiers, and she and Fanfarinet slew them all without being seen by them. Nothing was heard but cries; the poor soldiers drew their swords in vain, they fought with the air, while every blow the ambassador and Verenata struck gave certain death; and every where such lamentable groans as these were heard, 'Oh! I am killed: Oh! I die!' The two invisible lovers fought as safe as if they had to do with a flock of geese; they dropt down like ducks, avoided their enemies blows, and easily destroyed them. The admiral, observing how his men fell by unseen hands, founded a retreat and returned very melancholy to hold a council of war.

Night drawing on apace, the princess and Fanfarinet retired into the thickest of the wood; She was so weary, that she lay down on the grass, and had almost

dropt asleep, when she heard a voice whispering to her, 'Save yourself, Verenata, for Fanfarinet will kill and eat you.' She opened her eyes, and by the light of the carbuncle she spied the wretch Fanfarinet with his arm lifted up ready to run his sword to her heart: for perceiving her skin was so white, and her flesh so plump, his hunger inspired him with other thoughts than love, and the opportunity might have put it into his head; he had a mind to make a meal of her, and intended to murder her for that purpose. Verenata did not stand long deliberating what she should do; she drew out her dagger gently, having kept it for her own use ever since the battle, and stabbed him so very fiercely in the eye that he fell down dead. 'Go, ingrate, she cried, take the last favour, which thou hast best deserved from me; be an example for the future, to all faithless lovers, and may thy disloyal heart never find rest in the world to which I have sent thee.

When the first transport of her passion was over, and she reflected on the condition she was in, she had almost as little life in her, as the man whom she had just slain. 'What will become of me, (said she weeping) I am left alone in this desolate island; the wild beasts will either devour me, or I shall die with hunger.' She was even sorry that she had not suffered Fanfarinet to eat her, rather than expose herself to be eaten by the monsters of the desert; she sat down trembling, and wishing for morning.

As she rested herself against a tree, she espied on one side of her a golden chariot, drawn by six great hens with cropped crowns. A cock was the coachman, and a fat hen the postillion. In the chariot there rode a lady, so fair, that the sun lost all his lustre, wherever she shone, and night illuminated by her eyes, was brighter than meridian day. Her robe was all over set with spangles of silver and gold. On the other side of her Verenata saw another chariot drawn by six bats; a crow was the coachman, and a beetle the postillion. Within the chariot sat a little frightful hag, cloathed with snakeskin garment, and on her head she wore a great toad, which served her instead of a top-knot.

Never was a woman more surpris'd than the young princess was at this sight : while she stood gazing upon it, she saw the two chariots advance against each other, The beautiful lady held a golden lance in her hand, and the ugly one an old rusty spear. They came up fiercely to the combat, which lasted a quarter of an hour. At last the fair heroine got the victory, and the deformed hag fled with her bats. The battle being over, the handsome lady descended to the earth, and thus addressed herself to Verenata :

Fear nothing lovely princess ; I come hither only to oblige you ; I fought with Carabossa out of love to you ; she pretended to an authority to whip you, because you came out of the tower four days before your twentieth year expired. You see I took your part, and have driven her away ; rejoice at the happiness I bring you. — The grateful princess fell prostrate at her feet, and made this answer : ‘ Great queen of the fairies, I am transported at your generosity, and cannot find words to express my gratitude : but this I know, that there is not a drop of that blood which you have saved, which I am not ready to sacrifice for your service.’ The fairy embraced her twice, and by her spells rendered her, if it was possible, more beautiful than she was before. She commanded the cock, her coachman, to go to the king’s ship, and bid the admiral come to the princess, for there was nothing now that he need be afraid of ; and her postillion the hen, to her own palace, to fetch some new robes for Verenata, which were the richest that ever eyes were set upon.

The admiral was so ravished with the news which the cock brought him, that it was like to have thrown him into a fit of sickness : he landed immediately in the island, taking all his men with him ; and among the rest Jack Prattlebox, the express that arrived lately from court, who seeing every one run ashore did the same, and carried along with him a spit with wild fowl upon it half roasted.

Admiral Sharp-Cap had scarce gone a league before he saw the chariot drawn by hens in a great road in the

wood, and the two ladies walking together. He knew the princess, and bowed to the ground, was going to begin a notable speech. Verenata, interrupting him, said, 'All those honours were due to the generous fairy, who defended her from Carabossa's clutches.' Upon this the admiral kissed the hem of her fairy majesty's garment, and made her one of the finest compliments that ever came out of the mouth of a tar on such an occasion. While he was talking to her, the princess cried out, 'Certainly I smell roast meat. Yes, madam, (replied Prattlebox, and produced his spit with the birds on it,) your ladyship never eat better in your life.' 'I am very glad of it (quoth the fairy) though not so much on my own account as on the princess's, who wants some refreshment.' The admiral sent away to his ships for other necessaries: and the joy of his whole crew for his finding the princess, joined with their good cheer, made them all wonderful merry.

The feast being over, and the fat hen returned, the fairy dressed the princess in a robe of green silk, brocaded with gold, set with rubies and pearls; she bound up her hair locks with strings of jewels and emeralds; she crowned her with garlands of flowers, and placed her in the chariot; where, as she rode, all the stars that saw her, took her for the morning, and saluted her as she passed by, crying, 'Good morrow, Aurora.'

The fairy carried her to the sea-side; when they arrived there, they bid one another many a hearty adieu, 'Ah, madam (said the princess) will you not let me tell my mother to whom I owe this mighty obligation?' The fairy answered, Embrace her on my behalf, and tell her I am the fifth fairy that endowed you at your birth.'

The princess going aboard, the admiral commanded all the cannon to be fired; and welcomed her with a volley of small arms. The fleet returned safely to the port of her father's capital city; and when she landed, the king and queen, who waited on the shore for her coming, received her with such transport of joy, that they did not give her time to beg pardon for her past extravagancies, though

though she had thrown herself at their feet as soon as she saw them. Their parental tenderness laid all the fault on Carabossa; and the princess was excused, as acting by an irresistible impulse of fate.

At the same time the great king Merlin's son arrived, very much troubled that he heard no news of his ambassador. He had a train of one thousand horse, and thirty pages richly dressed in scarlet liveries, embroidered and laced with gold: he was an hundred times handsomer than the ungrateful wretch Fanfarinet. Care was taken not to let him know any thing of his flight, and the princess's, because that might have created suspicions which would have shocked a lover. He was told very gravely, that the ambassador being dry, went to draw water out of a well, fell into it, and was drowned.—His highness believed every word of it; was married to the princess; and the joy of the whole court was so great, that they quite forgot their late sorrow.

*Ye lovers, be your objects what they will,
Keep ye within the rules of duty still:
And never be by passion led away,
So much, but reason still shall have the sway:
Let her restrain the rage of your desires,
And make her mistress of your vows and fires.*

THE
S T O R Y
OF
FLORIO and FLORELLA.

THERE was a country-woman, who, upon her intimacy with a fairy, desired her to come and assist at her labour. The good woman was delivered of a daughter: when, the fairy taking the infant in her arms, said to the mother, ' Make your choice: the child (if you have a mind) shall be exquisitely handsome; excell in wit, even more than in beauty; and be the queen of a mighty empire; but withal unhappy; or (if you had rather) she shall be an ordinary, ugly, country creature, like yourself; but contented with her condition.' The mother immediately chose wit and beauty for her daughter; at the hazard of any misfortune.

As the child grew, new beauties opened daily in her face: till in a few years, she surpassed all the rural lasses that the oldest people had ever seen. Her turn of wit was gentle, polite, and insinuating: she was of a ready apprehension; and soon learned every thing, so as to excel her teachers. Every holiday she danced upon the green, with a superior grace to any of her companions. Her voice was sweeter than any shepherd's pipe; and she made the songs she used to sing.

For some time, she was not apprised of her own charms ; when, diverting herself with her playfellows, on the green flowery border of a fountain ; she was surprised with the reflection of her face : she observed, how different her features and her complexion seemed from the rest of her company ; and admired herself. The country, flocked from day to day to obtain a sight of her ; made her yet more sensible of her beauty. Her mother, who relied on the predictions of the fairy, began already to treat her as a queen, and spoiled her with flatteries. The young damsel would neither sew nor spin, nor look after the sheep : her whole amusement was, to gather flowers, to dress her hair with them, to sing, and to dance in the shade.

The king of the country was a very powerful king : and he had but one son ; whose name was Florio : for which reason, his father was impatient to have him married. The young prince could never bear the mentioning any of the princesses of the neighbouring nations ; because a fairy had told him, that he should find a shepherdess more beautiful, and more accomplished than all the princesses in the world. Therefore the king gave orders to assemble all the village nymphs of his realm, who were under the age of eighteen, to make a choice of her, who should appear worthy of so great an honour. In pursuance of the order, when they came to be sorted ; a vast number of virgins, whose beauty was not very extraordinary, were refused admittance ; and only thirty picked out, who infinitely surpassed all others. These thirty virgins, were ranged in a great hall, in the figure of a half moon : that the king and his son might have a distinct view of them together. Florello (our young damsel) appeared in the midst of her competitors, like a lily amidst marygolds ; or, as an orange-tree in blossom, shews amongst the mountain shrubs. The king immediately declared aloud, that she deserved his crown : and Florio thought himself happy in the possession of Florella.

Our shepherdess was instantly desired to cast off her country weeds and to accept a habit richly embroidered with

with gold. In a few minutes, she saw herself covered with pearls and diamonds ; and a troop of ladies were appointed to serve her. Every one was attentive to prevent her desires, before she spoke ; and she was lodged within the palace, in a magnificent apartment : where instead of tapestry, there were large pannels of looking-glass, from the floor to the ceiling ; that she might have the pleasure of seeing her beauty multiplied on all sides ; and that the prince might admire her, wherever he cast his eyes. Florio, in a few days, quitted the chace, and all the manly exercises in which before he delighted ; that he might be perpetually with his mistress. The nuptials were concluded : and soon after, the old king died. Thereupon, Florella becoming queen, all the councils and affairs of state were directed by her wisdom.

The queen-mother (whose name was Invidessa) grew jealous of her daughter-in-law. She was an artful, perverse, cruel woman ; and age had so much aggravated her natural deformity, that she seemed a fury. The youth and beauty of Florella, made her appear yet more frightful ; she could not bear the sight of so fine a creature : she likewise dreaded her wit and understanding ; and gave herself up to all the rage of envy. ' You want the soul of a prince (would she often say to her son) or you would not have married this mean cottager. How can you be so abject as to make an idol of her ? Then, she is as haughty as if she had been born in the palace where she lives. You should have followed the example of the king your father ; when he thought of taking a wife, he preferred me, because I was the daughter of a monarch, equal to himself. Send away this insignificant shepherdes to her hamlet, and take to your bed and throne, some young princess, whose birth is answerable to your own.'

Florio continued deaf to the instances of his mother : but one morning, Invidessa got a billet into her hands, which Florella had writ to the king ; this she gave to a young courtier, who by her instructions, shewed it to the king ; pretending to have received a letter from his queen, with such marks of affection, as were due only to his majesty. Florio blinded by his jealousy, and the malignant

malignant insinuations of his mother, immediately ordered Florella to be imprisoned for life, in a high tower, built on the point of a rock, that stood in the sea.— There she wept night and day; not knowing for what supposed crime she was so severely treated by the king, who had so passionately loved her. She was permitted to see no person but an old woman, to whom Invidessa had intrusted her; and whose business it was to insult her upon all occasions.

Now Florella called to mind the village, the cottage, the sweet privacy, and the rural pleasures she had quitted. One day as she sat in a pensive posture, overwhelmed with grief, and to herself accused the folly of her mother, who chose rather to have her a beautiful unfortunate queen, than an ugly contented shepherdess; the old woman, who was her tormentor, came to acquaint her that the king had sent an executioner to take off her head; and that she must prepare to die.— Florella replied, that she was ready to receive the stroke. Accordingly, the executioner sent by the king's order, at the persuasions of Invidessa, appeared with a drawn sabre in his hand, ready to perform his commission; when a woman stepped in, who said, she came from the queen-mother, to speak a word or two in private to Florella, before she was put to death. The old woman imagining her to be one of the ladies of the court, suffered her to deliver her message; but it was the fairy, who had foretold the misfortunes of Florella at her birth; and had now assumed the likeness of one of Invidessa's attendants.

She desired the company to retire a while; and then spoke thus to Florella in secret; 'Are you willing to renounce that beauty, which has proved so fatal to you? are you willing to quit the title of queen; to put on your former habit, and to return to your village?'— Florella was transported at the offer. Thereupon the fairy applied an enchanted vizard to her face; her features instantly became deformed; all the symmetry vanished, and she was now as disagreeable as she had been handsome. Under this change, it was not possible to know her; and she passed without difficulty, through

the company who came to see her execution. In vain did they search the tower ; Florella was not to be found. the news of this escape was soon brought to the king, and to Invidessa, who commanded diligent search to be made after her throughout the kingdom ; but to no purpose.

The fairy by this time, had restored Florella to her mother ; who would never have been able to recollect her altered looks, had she not been let into the circumstances of her story. Our shepherdess was now contented to live an ugly, poor unknown creature, in the village where she tended sheep. She frequently heard people relate, and lament over her adventures ; songs were made upon them, which drew tears from all eyes : she often took a pleasure in singing those songs, with her companions, and would often weep with the rest : but still, she thought herself happy, with her little flock ; and was never once tempted to discover herself to any of her acquaintance.

After all the care and attendance of the fairy upon the unfortunate Florella, she did not forget amply to reward the queen-mother, who was the principal instrument of her darling's unhappiness. And therefore to compensate, in some measure, for her misfortunes, she inspired the king's chief minister with notions that his artful and cruel mother had formed a design to take the government into her own hands, and wed with a powerful monarch, whose disposition perfectly corresponded with her own. Enraged at the information, he called together some of his nobles, to consult thereon, who gave it as their opinion, that she deserved death ; but as the ties of nature prevented it, her son commanded her to be placed in that tower from whence his once loved Florella had escaped, where she spent the remainder of her life.

The M O R A L.

This tale shews the folly of wishing to be in any state of life for which we were not designed, and that true happiness consists in being easy and content.



